INTERVIEW WITH ANN WILKINS DALTON

INTERVIEWEE	Ann Wilkins Dalton
INTERVIEWER AND TRANSCRIBER	Pat Fitzpatrick
INTERVIEW DATE	March 27, 2017
INTERVIEWEE ADDRESS	9 Squirrel Hill Rd., Asheville 28804
LENGTH OF INTERVIEW	Approximately three hours

Pat Fitzpatrick: I'm at my home in Asheville with Ann Dalton and we're going to do an interview. The time is 1:50. Ann is a neighbor of mine whom I've known for some years. I knew she was an Asheville resident, North Asheville. And she's already told me a few experiences. I told her we needed to wait and get those on tape, because they were interesting and they're not the usual ones we've been getting. And Ann, by way of introduction, has how many dogs now? How many dogs do you have, Ann?

Ann Dalton: Eight. Gosh, we may not want to put that down.

PF: What part of North Asheville did you grow up in?

AD: It was the lake section, actually, they called it Beaver Lake or, you know, the part of Beaver Lake that was-- You know, there's two sides. So coming down Merrimon, going north, we were on the side that was on the right. The left side is where my father, when they first moved to Asheville, they moved into that side, when his mom and dad came here for his father's health.

PF: And where did they live?

AD: I was trying to remember if it was Farrwood. They built one of the first houses on that street. I can't remember exactly. That was the street, if you go up over the dam and, I guess you would make a right and just keep on after you go over the dam. Just keep going to the right and it's that first street that goes up through there, and that's the house that they built when they moved here from Alabama, to be their summer home. And they moved here in 1926 and Daddy was 16. And his father was in bad health, and back then Asheville was the place to go if you had any health issues, especially respiratory issues. So they built that house so that in the summertime, when it was so hot in Alabama, they could come here. Well, they knew that Daddy's father was in bad health. He was 15 years older than Daddy's mother. And he had also smoked. He was in just bad health. His lungs and all of that. So they sent Daddy away to Europe, to be with his brother, Joseph, who was an opera singer over there. And his sister-in-law, Daddy's sister-in-law, was a concert pianist. So they performed all over Europe. So they knew that my grandfather was going to die, Daddy's mother did, so they sent him over there to be with Joseph. And sure enough, he got the news on a train somewhere in Europe that his father had passed and he needed to get back to the states. And Daddy was about 18, I think, when his father passed away. And then they moved over near Grove Park Inn. That would be my grandmother. She moved over there and Daddy and Mama were married in 1934, and they moved in with her in about 1936 when my first sister was born.

PF: Do you know what street that was?

AD: The house that's over there was built by the same man that built one there at Beaver Lake. They're identical houses and it's right there as

you--it's of those first streets there. Actually, there's a big church there. The Unitarian Church.

PF: On Macon? Is that where you turn up?

AD: Yes, I think that's where it is. Macon. I think it's Macon.

PF: The church on the left of it is St. Mary's?

AD: Right. That's it. Well, St. Mary's is where my aunt was a big member of that, because that was my father's sister. So, of course, he and his sister both lived here and stayed here.

PF: What was the sister's name?

AD: Henrietta.

PF: And the last name, Wilkins?

AD: Daddy's was Wilkins, but when she married she was a Talmadge. And she lived on Kimberly after that in a great big house up on the hill there. And Burl Ives used to come and entertain at Christmastime. Because he knew my--Joseph, and I guess the family was all into music. And I was probably about three or four, I guess, and I remember Burl Ives sitting at the piano and he was singing and playing and I was sitting on the floor right at his feet, you know, and he was singing Christmas songs. But Mama and Daddy moved in with my grandmother, because Daddy was her favorite child, I think.

PF: And what was their name?

AD: Their name was--well, Daddy's name was Wilkins, and that was his father's name, was Wilkins also. Was he William Wilkins, also? Gosh, I can't remember my own grandfather's name. I think so. But Daddy's name was William Wilkins. And I believe he was named after his father. Isn't that right. I can't remember. But anyway, Mama had moved here from Ohio in 1916. Of course, Daddy had moved here in '26 and they eventually met.

But they married in '34 and in '36 they had my sister and moved in with my grandmother over there on Macon. I guess it was Macon, a big house there. And she had servants. And so Mama was sort of a caretaker of my grandmother and drove her where she wanted to go, because she was pretty much up in society. So the maids or whoever was there would take care of my first sister, then my second sister was born in '38. So they lived there with my grandmother until about 1941 when my grandmother said she wanted to go back to Alabama and live in the winters. In the summer she would come up here and live with them. And she gave them money, some money, to buy that piece of property in Beaver Lake [Kingwood and built that house, there on the corner of Kingwood Place and Wembley. And she said, "I just want a place to come in the summer, so I'll give you so much money and you can build me a section of the house," which they did, a nice big bedroom and a big bathroom that was separate from them. It was a two-story house. And so she would come back in the summer. She died in December of '49, so I never met her, because I was born in March of '50. But she knew my sisters and then my aunt, Daddy's sister, had two children, also. And so she came to see the grandchildren, you know, that's why she wanted to come back to Asheville, I'm sure. Because I don't--I don't really think that my parents went back to Alabama when she would go in the winter, at all. I think they pretty much stayed here. My mother didn't even go to the funeral because she was pregnant with me, about to have me, in December, and didn't want to do the road trip, so she didn't go back with Daddy to the funeral for my grandmother. But her portrait is in the Capitol Building in Alabama now. It hangs there because she was the first woman legislator from the State of Alabama?

PF: Your grandmother was.

AD: My grandmother. And her name was Hattie Hibernia Hooker before she was married.

PF: Oh, my gosh. Your grandmother was a Hooker.

AD: Exactly. Before she was married, she carried a pearl-handled pistol and rode a horse and taught school. A one-room schoolhouse, all the grades. From the very earliest up until I guess they finished school. And that was what she did before she met my grandfather who ran the candy factory in Selma. And that's--I'm not sure how they met. I don't know that much about that, but that's the way that all got started. And then with his health and them moving here and then Daddy and Mama-- And then they built that house over there and in about 1941, '42, right during the war, when the war was getting started, and prices were up there. You couldn't get copper, you couldn't get a lot of stuff, but my grandmother, I guess, had given them enough money and that's why they bought two lots. So the lot next door was where we moved in '58 and built another house, after my sisters went to college and moved away, got married. But I grew up in that first house for eight years. And my sisters being 12 and 14 years older, they were mostly, to me, not so much sisters as babysitters and people who told me what to do. My brother was born 19 months before I was, so he knew my grandmother. He did meet her.

PF: So there were four children in your family.

AD: There were four children all together. She had one miscarriage before she had my first sister and then--or maybe between the two sisters. I can't remember that exactly. This is my mother. And then she had the baby born full term, forcep delivery, that the doctor killed with the forceps. And that was their best friend, Dr. Burton. They went everywhere together. Daddy hunted with him, and it was just an accident. Then they knocked

women out, they ethered them, you know, and then you woke up and you had a baby. And my mother woke up and didn't have a baby and Daddy had already had it cremated. So she never saw the baby. It was a beautiful girl. And had that not happened my brother and I wouldn't be here. She would have had three girls and that would have been it. But that age difference there, that's why my sisters and I are so much age difference. And she having the boy, and I guess she figured she'd have another boy, and she had me instead. So she was--Daddy was 40 when I was born. Mama was about 28, so later-in-life children. But we wouldn't have been here if that had not happened. But what I think is that, from what they told me, they buried her ashes outside of the house. The baby, the house I grew up in, her ashes were buried outside the kitchen window there, or outside the window of the house, so that every time Mama looked out, she saw that. But she blamed my father very much for not ever letting her see the baby. You know, she didn't have that closure. So he just made that decision to have her cremated. I guess Mama was knocked out and they just said, "What do you want to do", and that was the decision he made. But that may have led to her alcoholism. That's what she said. But Daddy and Mama both drank a lot, you know. They were big partyers. And that's what she always said, was because Daddy had done that, she became an alcoholic. You have to blame it on something. But I--you know, that's the way it ended up. But everybody else in North Asheville, like we talked about, the neighbors all seemed to be very similar to the way my parents were.

PF: You can elaborate on it. You and I talked about it, but we didn't get it on tape at the time. Anything you want to say about it. Don't feel like you have to speak about that.

AD: But it was an open childhood. Everybody, you know, all the children were sort of turned out in the morning and, unless we were in school, we were all climbing trees and riding bikes and hiking all over Reynolds Mountain. We used to go up there all the time. Even when my little nephews came to town. Because my sister was so much older, she had two children who were only-- Well, one was eight years younger than I was ands the other was six years younger than I was. So I was more of a sibling than I was an aunt to them. But my sister had to move back here after her divorce. She moved back to Asheville for a brief while. And during that time, when she worked, then I would take care of her children. I was, you know, maybe nine. So we would walk up Reynolds Mountain. I was totally in charge of these little children. So we would walk up Reynolds Mountain together and spend the day, and I'd make their lunch. Because Mama wasn't really the kind of person that wanted to take care of children. Because like I said, she had help. The whole time that I was growing up we had a live-in maid. And then after we had the incident which the maid that was caught with the male friend in the basement and they let go, then we had a day maid. But we did have a live-in maid for probably the first, I would say the first six years of my life, maybe.

PF: Do you remember her name?

AD: I don't remember her name. I really don't. I think Lillian is the first one and then we had another one named Camilla after that. They moved with us. Camilla I remember more in the house in '58. That was 47 Kingwood Place. But 53 was where we had the live-in.

PF: So she was just daily, Camilla was?

AD: Yeah, and Camilla was more like three days a week and Lillian, at the other house, was five days a week. We did have a five-day-week maid

but she didn't cook. She left, Daddy would drop her home, you know, that's when we would take her back down to Valley Street or around in there, where the black folks lived down there, every day. She'd ride the bus to us, usually, but I'm not sure why we took her home unless it had something to do with safety. Maybe Daddy didn't want to have her try to walk down and catch the bus later in the afternoon. Maybe it was just part of the agreement, I don't know. But it was mostly room and board for the live-in. That was mostly her salary, not much else. And she had a little bit of time off on Sunday, and that was pretty much all. She was pretty much a babysitter or a cook. You know, she washed, she ironed. Everything was ironed back then, sheets, everything. And, you know, I just thought everybody had maids, because most of the people in our neighborhood did back then. And when you'd go in a house, you know, their maids would be there doing whatever they did, you know, working.

PF: Do you remember her last name at all?

AD: No, but I probably wasn't trained to be independent, certainly, because I didn't, other than just taking care of my own self, I didn't really have much else to do. My mother did sew some, but she kind of gave that up when I came along. She sewed much more for my sisters, and she would make, I don't know if you knew the Halls or not, Nora Hall. Her father was a lawyer. They lived in the big house that's now a bed and breakfast that's there where Reynolds Mountain and all that's been developed. It's a great big old brick home that's a big bed and breakfast. And Nora and her family lived there and they had a swimming pool in front. And she was one of my friends growing up. And she was my age but a bigger girl. So her stuff would come to me and I'd be able to wear it two years after she did, but Mama wouldn't fix it and make it fit. She hard nice clothes. But Mama did

like to sew when she wasn't drinking. When she was drinking, of course, she didn't--she probably didn't get into that. And I think that may be why she--because it was more and more. But my sister does tell me, her memory, she drank a lot when they were small, too, even though, she said, it was about the baby. Ruth said, "No. I don't think so. I think she was an alcoholic". Because of the partying, probably, that they did. Because Mama and Daddy did do a lot of that, partying with their friends and stuff. Then the bridge games that I told you about, where all the women would come to the house and they had highballs and cigarettes. If there were children in the house, they got to partake of the alcohol, too, or the dog or whatever happened to be. I guess the ladies were, by the afternoon, they were all happy and all. They drove. You know, back then.

PF: Not a many cars on the road.

AD: No. And my mother had close calls several times.

PF: You mentioned walking around and going all over Reynolds Mountain. Where was the Reynolds mansion?

AD: Oh, the Reynolds Mountain mansion was up on top of the hill. You would go up the driveway, it was just a gravel driveway, and that's the way we would go up. And Daddy would go up there sometimes in the car, and take-- I can remember when I was a little girl and we'd go up there to see it. And I don't think there was anybody living there but a caretaker, after-- She committed suicide and then the Senator left here. And I don't really know all of that history. I probably should know more. I think Bill really does know a lot more of that history. But the mansion was sitting on top and it was sort of a concrete block looking thing. I mean, it was not the mansion that you would think of. And they had windows around. We used to go up there all the time. And then there was a big, like observation tower.

And it may still--parts of it may still be there. It's kind of like when you would go up on Grandfather Mountain and they used to have that big observatory up there that they've since torn down. But that's what this thing was. There was one there, but I think they were going to try to leave it there, although I heard they sold that lot. And whoever bought the lot was going to try to incorporate that, obviously, that thing somehow in the house.

PF: I think I've seen the house you're talking about. But it wasn't like way up as high as Reynolds Mountain development goes now, was it?

AD: It was up pretty high. We went back and tried to find it and it's gone. So I'm thinking they've used that space to build, probably to build houses up there. I think it was on top, as I remember it. I remember going up there and it was--I know the observatory was off from the house. The observatory probably was on the best area for seeing everything around. And I haven't been up there in a long time to see what they've ever done with that particular lot. But it was a premium lot, I know that. And they were going to charge more for that lot because of the way it sat. You could see all, you know, all the way around. But we used to walk up there constantly. I mean, you know, just go up in there. It was kind of a creepy thing for children. There was this big old house and nobody lives there. And I think they had--I've forgotten how they got their water. But they had problems with their water. I think there was a water tank or something they kept up there, because it was hard to get water up Reynolds Mountain.

PF: There is a big tank up there now. And there's a fire tower.

AD: I've seen that.

PF: Was the house up beyond the fire tower?

AD: I really don't know since they've changed it up there so much. I just remember walking up that gravel road, up to the very top. And it was,

you know, wasn't gated off or anything. Anybody could go if they wanted to. But like I say, I told you that my parents bought that house and the lot. Mostly the lot for a farm. So during the war, she raised the chickens and the ducks.

PF: That was back on Kingwood.

AD: Right. On Kingwood, right. That's why they had the two lots. And then I guess they decided that the big house was too much for them after my sisters moved away, and that's why they built in '58 right next door. But Daddy said the lots there were $500 apiece or something. And had he had the money and known, or probably his mother would have even wanted to invest, but he had no idea that those lots would go for what they eventually went for, and that it would be as significant of a development as it is now. But Robinhood is all up in there. We used to walk all the way up into Robinhood and all those places. It was a great place to ride your bike. The golf course that was there then was not the Asheville club. It was the City golf course that was owned by Wolfson, Mr. Wolfson that lived out Beaverdam eventually. And Wolfson's family sold all of that property to the Asheville club, probably after Bill and I left here in the seventies, early seventies. And they built the Asheville club up on the knoll where we used to play. All the kids used to go up in the woods there and we had, you know, makeshift tree houses and all sorts of stuff up there. So that was our play area, where the club is now.

PF: The country club.

AD: The country club. Right up there, yeah. And, of course, the country club used to be up where the Grove Park Inn is. So that's where we were members. The Asheville Country Club was there when we had our wedding reception and everything. And they, I guess the Grove Park Inn

said, "Well, that one sits right here where we are. It would be great if we could buy all that, we'd then have all of the golf course. We'd have the swimming pool". And so they acquired that and then Ashville City--Asheville club didn't have a place to go, so that's when the Wolfson people offered them that property. There was already a golf course there. So they didn't have to do much but build a clubhouse and a swimming pool and tennis courts. But we used to go up on the eighteenth green up there, that went straight down, and we'd go sledding. And whenever it would snow, we would have the most fun. You know, your mother would send you out all dressed in six layers of coats. You could barely move, and we'd pile on the sled. Usually, I'd be--I don't know why I'd be on the bottom, I was so little. But I'd be on the bottom and everybody, like three or four people, stacked on the sled. And it was those old Radio Flyer wooden sleds. They were great though. We had the most fun. You'd pull it up the hill and do it again. We did that when we didn't have school. There was some big snows back in the late fifties, early sixties. And we wouldn't go to school for maybe, you know, two or three weeks sometimes. And you remember the blizzard of '83, with no power and all that. We never lost power, that's what gets me.

PF: And you're right behind us and we lost it for four days.

AD: No, we lost power then. When I was growing up, we never did. I don't understand why we lose power now, or why we did, and then back when I was growing up I never remember losing power. And we had big snows back then, too. But I just don't remember every being without power. Of course, we had a fireplace. We had two in the first house and then we had a coal-stoked furnace and Daddy would have to get coal in and stoke the furnace every morning before he'd go to work to keep the house warm. That's how we heated the house. Now they've switched it over, I'm sure, to

some other method. Then Mrs. Covington, like I said, bought the house from us in 1958 and has lived there ever since.

PF: On the corner.

AD: Mrs. Covington.

PF: Tell me about her. You mentioned some things about her.

AD: They came-- He was in the Navy and retired to Asheville and worked for Enka. I don't know what year, whether they moved here to Asheville to work. They lived in the apartments on Merrimon Avenue. Those are now condominiums, because that's where Bill and I first lived after we were married. They lived there when they bought our house. They had two children then and they had two more children, living in that house. So they ended up with four children. They were Catholic. And I just touched base with Margaret not long ago and she's up in Pennsylvania and we shared some stories. And she had a picture of the house and told me her mother's 91, still lived there. So in '58 I was eight. I'm sure Mrs. Covington was probably in her late thirties, maybe. And let's do the math. She had those two more children and still there. I can't imagine, by herself in that house. That's a lot of house. Because I don't remember how many square feet that house had. But our house was, the one that Mama built in '58, was really a pretty good-sized house, too, because we had a basement that was, you know, a big huge room, rec room kind of like thing underneath, and then a garage beside that, in which we'd roller skate. In and out of the big room, into the garage, out on the driveway, and back again. The roller skates with a key, that was a big deal. We'd do it with neighbors, and I think Margaret probably was one of the ones that I was skating with, more than likely.

PF: Now, where did you go to school?

AD: I went to St. Eugene's, the Catholic school, because my sisters went to St. Genevieve's, which was the big Catholic school downtown, near the Asheville High. And I went there-- I had gone to Carolina Day, to a kindergarten. I had gone to St. Genevieve's to a kindergarten.

PF: Now, is that the Carolina Day that was out in North Asheville?

AD: Yes.

PF: I didn't realize, until just this week--

AD: It was where the church is. Where the Presbyterian Church is. They used to have a school there, which was one where I went to. But I started like at three in kindergarten, and because, like I say, Mama was ready for me to go someplace and so I did kindergarten at St. Genevieve's, I did kindergarten at Carolina Day, which was Asheville Country Day then, and then I did kindergarten at St. Eugene's. So three years of kindergarten and I was probably ready to go to-- I remember when they dropped me off at St. Eugene's in kindergarten, all the kids were crying. I'm going, "Why are they crying? What, they don't want to leave their parents?" My brother and I both went to St. Eugene's, because it had just been built. It was a new facility, pretty much, and nice, and close to the house. I mean, Daddy could take us on the way to work and Mama picked us up. And that worked until I wanted to be a nun. And then my sister said, "You need to get Ann out of that school and you need to send her a parochial school, where she won't be"-- Because I loved the religion, I thought it was beautiful. I can recite and memorize.

PF: And it was a pretty picture after what you had at home, I suppose.

AD: Yeah. Yeah. But then my brother was a mess there. Like I say, he was 19 months older. He needed discipline, but they were ready for my brother to go. I mean, he was a mess and just constantly in trouble and

never able to really sit still and had lots of problems. But I just loved the religion. The only thing, they wouldn't let me go to communion because I wasn't a Catholic. So they made me sit, by myself, unless I converted to Catholicism, and that was all my whole thinking. Well, I'll just tell them I want to be a nun, they'll let me go to communion. And everybody was getting these wafers. I knew it was a special thing.

PF: Like a tea party.

AD: But I wasn't sure why, I mean, why were they leaving me out. I thought maybe if I just tell them I'll be a nun. And I had real long blond hair, then. My mother tried everything. "Well, they're going to cut your hair off, you know. You can't wear clothes, you have to wear these black outfits all the time". But I had the best third-grade teacher. She was so sweet. And, you know, people have bad experiences with nuns. Bill went to Joan of Arc and had terrible experiences with nuns. But I guess I did everything they wanted to do and I wanted to learn and so I was cooperative. If you didn't give them problems, then I'm sure they really appreciated that. But the ones that were discipline problems, well, that was like my brother. So then they had, they had just built Jones Elementary, Ira B. Jones Elementary. There was a big school that sat on the hill above that. That was the first elementary school. And they built Ira B. Jones about the time that I went, probably in fourth grade. So my mother took us out in fourth grade and I went there fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh, to Ira B. Jones. And my brother did, too, and all the teachers would say, "Oh, my god. Are you another Wilkins? I can't take another Wilkins," because my brother had already-- You know, they had already been shown what he could do. So anyway, no, and they saw that I was not like him so I think they were pleased about that. But, oh, yeah, he had the sort of a reputation. And from there to David

Millard, which is gone, but as you know, they've got that office complex up there. And before that, it was the hospital where I was born. That was where I was born, on that hill there. And so David Millard was torn down, of course, and I went there eighth and ninth grade. And then went to Lee Edwards after that. They only had tenth, eleventh and twelfth. My graduating class as over 600. It was a big class that year. So that's, you know, that's kind of the way with Asheville city, that's kind of the way we would go, the progression you would go, unless you went to private school. And then most people went to St. Genevieve's. A lot of my friends went to St. Genevieve's. But the good times back then. Good times.

PF: You alluded to some adventures you and your brother had, the other day, which I thought were just hilarious. Tell me about those.

AD: Oh, yeah. Well, I always grew up with animals. I've always loved animals and my first dog was a collie, like Lassie on TV. And that was-- My mother also raised Pekingese, and we did have some of those, also. She kind of got out of that when they got to be too much and she was getting some bad checks from folks and stuff like that. And Daddy said it just, we just needed to, you know, we needed to just scale down on the animals. So instead of all the ones in the yard, you know, I had Queen and she stayed with me constantly, and I can't remember when Queen came to us. Tricia Coxey who lives in our neighborhood, maybe-- She had a collie too, and she may be able to remember that. She's three or four years older than I am, but we were backdoor neighbors and she was in my wedding. But Queen was always with us. My mother would send my brother and me out and say, "You all enjoy your day". Here I was four or five years old and my brother was, you know, how he was. It was just a mess. So we were always getting into trouble. And so one time we had winter coats on and they had

some new construction on the corner there at the Algary house. And we got up on the roof, because there was a ladder there. And my brother said, "You know, Santa Claus comes down through the chimney. Why don't we try to get in this part of the house through the chimney and see what's going on." We were always curious about what we could see in other people's houses and we were just on our own. So he lifted me up, jacket and all, big wool coat that I had on, and set me into the chimney with my arms by my side, so I couldn't move one way or the other. And he saw that I was stuck and he couldn't get me out. He was just, you know, not even two years older than I was and he could not lift me up because I had gotten stuck in there. And Queen, down by the ladder, looked up and she started barking and she ran home. My brother ran off. I don't know where he went, but he ran off. And Queen went home and barked and barked and barked. And Mama saw, "Well, the children are not with her. Wonder where they are". So she went out and Queen took her up to the Algary house, which was really just across the street and up from us just a little bit, to where the ladder was, and Mama could see up on the roof what was going on. And I guess it was Mama that got up there and got me down. And, of course, the minute she got me out, I said, "Well, Bill put me in here", not like I had anything to do with it. I didn't say "Okay". I didn't say "That would be fun". So she, of course, she beat my brother. And that's what she would do. He got a big spanking, usually with a belt, if he misbehaved. That's what they did with children back then. He knew how to hide and so did I. Because in that house, we had a big closet in my sister's room that went all the way back into the--it was a slanted big closet. And you could go all the way back in the closet and hide. And usually, if my sister was there, which I think by this time she might have been. I can't remember. I guess I was so little she might have

been 16, 17 years old. She would help us hide. So if we had done something we weren't supposed to do and Mama was after us with a belt, she would just say, "Go in my closet and hide down there as far as you can and I'll close the door". So Mama knew where to look, eventually, and she would find us. But sometimes we would get pretty lucky and usually I didn't get a spanking. It was just my brother who always got a spanking. Because my mother didn't know how to deal with boys, I think. She had had girls and then me, but she wasn't real sure how to deal with a boy. And she thought it would be all right just to beat the devil out of him, just beat him with this belt. And it happened a lot. And my brother ended up eventually fighting back, which wasn't a good thing. And my sister--my oldest sister was that way and I have vivid memories of sitting at the breakfast table and my sister who was 14 years older would take my mother on. And there would be some incidents of slapping and all that stuff with my sister, even as a teenager. A lot of abuse. Daddy didn't step in that much, because he knew better than to get between my mother and her anger. Those are the bad memories, because there was a lot of abuse that I saw as a child that I didn't realize didn't go on everywhere. But when you look back on it, you know that the terror that you felt was probably not normal, you know. That after you had seen the way other people lived. But my mother, when she was drinking, she was just uncontrollable. She didn't remember it the next day. But Queen also saved my life another time when my brother and I-- We had a big lime pit in the backyard on that other lot. So this must have been before I was eight, another time when I was probably about four or five. And there was a big line that went all the way across the lime pit. It was all in a big fenced area.

PF: What is a lime pit? Is it natural?

AD: It was where they threw all of the scraps so that it would all disintegrate and mulch. I don't know if they even had their trash carried off. I don't know. But the lime pit was where you threw trash and, I guess, whatever they had they put in there that wasn't, you know. Back then there wasn't much plastic, so I guess it was a lot of food scraps and things like that. And then I don't know what they did with the lime after. But I just know that the lime was caustic and it would burn you if you fell into it. So my brother said, "Well, I can do this. Can you do it too?" You know, "Watch me". And so he handed--he would go hand over hand and he did this across the lime pit and I said, "Sure, I can do that". And I tried. I got about halfway through and I couldn't hold on anymore, and I feel into that lime pit. Well, of course, Queen was right outside the fence. And this is another time my brother just took off, and so my brother came--I mean, my mother came and she saw that I was in the lime pit and took me right out. And I don't remember whether I had any burns or anything from that. I had on clothes, of course, you know. But she had gotten me out within about five minutes of me falling in. But it was Queen that went to the back door. Another time, Bill and I--this was after we moved, though. It seems like to me that I was in kindergarten. So maybe we hadn't moved. I don't guess we had. I must have been about five or six. And I was at kindergarten at St. Eugene's. And it was the summer and we walked down to the golf course. Mama had locked us out again and we just--after breakfast we started wandering around. It was a Sunday and we walked down to the golf course that was then the municipal golf course, the City golf course. There wasn't an Asheville club then. And there was a big creek bed down there that was real kind of muddy and mushy. And we got down into the creek bed and there wasn't water in there but I just remember mud. And my brother was

getting out, scrambling out. We weren't supposed to be down there, of course, because people played golf on the golf course and with the golf balls and all, you probably shouldn't have ever been down there. But that was one of the places that we went all the time. And as I started up the muddy bank, I fell backwards and face first into a yellow jackets nest. Queen wasn't with us then. But my brother, of course, was running on, and I had the bees all over me. They were--they covered my--they were stinging me everywhere. And then when we got home, I remember Bill screaming because they were already beating him. "Where's your sister?" But the men on the golf course that were playing, said "What are you children doing here on this golf course on a Sunday?" Didn't offer to help or anything. They said, "You should not be here. You go straight home". And I guess they didn't see that I had bees all over me.

PF: Were you yelling and crying.

AD: I was yelling and crying.

PF: Well, then they knew something was going on. My word.

AD: I got home and it was the first house. It was 53. So I ran upstairs and they stripped off my clothes and the bees were everywhere, they were flying everywhere. Mostly it was my face. And I sort of went into a coma. And they didn't take me to the hospital. The doctors came to your house back then. If you needed a doctor, you called the doctor, and the doctor came out to the house. And they put me to bed and my face swelled up. Oh, it was horrible. And they said that if I ever got stung by a yellow jacket, chances were that I would be allergic. If that ever happened again. But the only other thing that I did step in, a bumblebee nest a couple times. Put one foot in. That hurt so bad, I stepped in it with the other foot. Had both my feet. But that was in the Pinkston's yard, right catty-corner to our

yard. I didn't think bumblebees, I didn't think bumblebees stang, stung. I don't know if they do. Anyway, that was another episode with the bees. But to this day, I remember we were sitting at the picnic table, at the Pinkstons. They always would have cookouts with the drunk parents. Daddy never did really grill out. Daddy didn't, he didn't believe in that kind of thing. So the Pinkstons would have food, so we'd go over there and have dinner with them sometimes. And I remember the yellow jackets flying all over the food, and me just sitting there terrified. And Mr. Pinkston would say, "What is wrong with you? Don't worry about it". But I remember not wanting to eat and being just scared to death of those yellow jackets, and still to this day.

PF: Yeah, well, when you know it's going to have a reaction like that. Did he know what had happened to you?

AD: Oh, yeah, everybody kind of knew bout it. But still, you know, I guess they were tough. People were tough back then. "Get over it. What's wrong with you? Why don't you like bees". But I don't remember, Queen--I don't remember when Queen died, that dog, and Tricia probably, her Collie may have died before mine. Their collie, I think, was black and white and ours was just like Lassie. But the next dog I got was probably about kindergarten time, not long after that episode with the bees, probably, that was a little Chihuahua. So I had Patrick, we named him Patrick because my birthday is on the day after St. Patrick's Day, and we got him on St. Patrick's Day. So he was my little companion after that. Not much protection. Back then, the dogs roamed all over the place. Nobody--they didn't have any kind of rules or regulations about dogs. So they just wandered the neighborhoods. And my little dog, when I was away to college, ended up getting into a fight, because my mother had my sister and her children, their grandchildren there and she wasn't watching my little dog. And another big

dog got him and he had puncture wounds and died from that. I got home from college to find him almost dead. So Mama didn't take him to the vet. l He just passed away from the injuries. He was probably about twelve, I guess. That was Charles Pinkston who was just a little bit younger, he was born in the summer, I was born in the spring, March, and he was probably in June or July. And he was really a good friend, too. I mostly boy friends, because there weren't too many girls in the neighborhood. And we would climb up into trees and find where the tree would fork into a V. And we would cut it to make slingshots, you know, and everybody was in competition to see who could make the best slingshot. And you'd have to have a real sharp knife in order to be able to cut-- Usually we'd get into little dogwood trees and things where it was easier to cut it. But one time I remember, I took the knife--it was a really, really sharp knife, and I wasn't supposed to ever go home during the day, so this is some of the stuff we would do. So once I got in the tree and found this perfect thing, and I started cutting, the knife slipped and it cut me on the finger, cut a pretty good chunk out of my finger. And I remember that I said, "Well, I can't go home. I can't tell Mama because she know I'll have this knife". So Charles's mother had been a nurse. I loved Mrs. Pinkston. She was a drinker, too, but she would do whatever. She'd feed you or whatever. She'd do that. So we ran in and I showed her my finger and she dressed it for me and fixed it. And I don't know-- She and Mama got along sometime, because they traded flowers back and forth through the fence, iris bulbs and things like that, and if one liked something that somebody else had, then they would trade off. And they got into some sort of a fight that I don't know what it was about. It might have been the flowers. But then there was a spell there where they didn't talk. And Mama would never go to these cookouts. It was pretty

much just send my brother and me over there. We'd go to the cookouts, you know. And the Pinkstons had fruit trees in the backyard, and we picked cherries and things like that. We were destroying people's trees, basically. We were cutting and making slingshots. And we would shoot each other with the slingshots. My brother had a BB gun. He actually shot Charles with it. And they finally came to blows on some of that. Like, you know, you can't have your son shooting my son with a BB gun. A BB actually went into his leg. My brother was up at the Gudger house, which was the seven-gable house right there that faces the club now. Mr. Gudger, they had sort of an open door--they had a big courtyard in the back. That house is absolutely amazing, if you've ever been there. Well, Bill and I, as children, we'd love to go and see what was going on there. So, the wall was right at our backyard. They built a big brick wall that went the expanse of our yard and their courtyard. So we could climb that wall and go into their courtyard and into their house, because they didn't lock the back door. They had it courtyarded off. So my brother went over there, took a big knife one time and carved up their beautiful cotton hammock, in little bitty pieces, with his knife. And that wasn't good. The Gudgers didn't like that at all. And then Mr. Gudger had a train room up above the garage, all of his trains. And we would go in there and just wander around. I don't think they ever knew what was going on. They had two children. They had a boy and a girl. And the girl, I think, went to St. Genevieve's with my sisters, knew them more than I did, because they were that much older. The boy was older, too. But when my mother locked us out, she had no idea what we were doing most of the time. And didn't care. She didn't have help much, you know. The help that was inside was probably doing the cleaning and she didn't have anybody to watch us outside. So we were pretty much on our own. There wasn't a

whole lot of traffic back then. So my brother, to teach me to ride a bike and keep up with him, he just put me at the top of the street there on Kingwood Place and pushed me down the hill. I fell off so many times, I finally figured "If I don't learn to ride a bike, he's going to kill me". So when I finally learned, he put me on the grass--it was Mama, Daddy and Bill were having breakfast in the room that looked out over the little piece of yard we had that went down there from the driveway, and I got onto my bike. I was so proud of myself. I was riding and I was looking right at them and I went smack into a tree.

PF: Oh, my gosh. Oh, poor baby.

AD: And another time now, I was sitting on my brother's tractor, and he said, "You get off my tractor or I'm going to throw this knife at you." He always had a knife. I don't know, my parents must not have ever--and he was always throwing it at something. And I said--

PF: You mean like a toy tractor?

AD: Yeah, this is a toy tractor. One of those little yellow--

PF: A pedal one?

AD: --pedal toy tractors. He probably was ix, so then I was probably four. And I said, "You would never throw that knife at me." And he--right in the corner of my eye. It stuck right into the corner of my eye. He was a pretty good shot of everything, good eyesight. And so--I don't remember it hurting, but I remember screaming, because I wanted him to get in trouble. And so my mother, here again--and Daddy would spank Bill with the belt sometimes, but that time he chased him up the steps in the house. I remember that and pulled his pants down and wore him out with that belt. But we sold the house when Mama died. She died in--Daddy died in '84 and Mama died in '95. And when she died, the summer before she died that fall,

we had sold the contents of the house while she was still living because she said she wanted Johnny Penland to auction everything off. She wanted to know what her things would bring, because she was proud, very proud of her antiques. That was her life, her flowers and her antiques. She had searched far and wide for most of those antiques. And she went to some auctions. So we had that auction and Johnny Penland auctioned things off on the front steps of that house. And we were not allowed to take but one thing from the house, each one of us, there were four children. Anything else we wanted, we had to bid on, along with the crowd. So a big crowd showed up that day. Paul Rifkin was there. I know he was. And Alan from Alan's Jewelry and Paw came. He bought my mother's old Victorian chairs for his Victorian house down in Weaverville. And I bought a few things. My sister bought a few things, because things went pretty high. And my sister's children wanted to buy some things that they couldn't afford, because the prices were going pretty high. Some things weren't. The china wasn't going high. Her needlepoint chairs, I got those. I new Mama had done the needlepoint. And I know that they were covered in nicotine. My sister whispered that to me, "Do you really want those chairs? They're covered in nicotine". And I said, "Well, I'll get them cleaned. I want her chairs". So I have those, still with the same needlepoint on them. Mama did a lot of that. She did a lot of crocheting, knitting, needlepoint passed the time. I think that's some of the stuff that kept her busy. That was after my grandmother passed away in '49. Mama didn't have the same social life she had had when my grandmother was living, of course, because she didn't have the same contacts and they didn't--she didn't do the same things. Mama stayed home probably too much, and especially after the bridge games sort of, you know, ran its course. All of the women got older, the children were going away from

home, and they just didn't have the same social networking that they had had. But Mrs. Burton, who wrote for--she was Dr. Burton's wife, and Dr. Burton was the one that did the forcep delivery on my sister that didn't go well. And Dr. Burton was also the one that hunted and fished with my father and had a plane. Dr. Burton even had a private plane, where they flew to Florida to do some fishing once. So I didn't even know about this but they have it on--my sister sent me a little film that they had of that. It would have been, probably, in the, I would say the early forties, maybe. But Mrs. Burton wrote for the paper. So when any--they needed something for the paper, she would call Mama. And so we were in the paper quite a bit. "Ann and Bill sitting with their Halloween costumes on". And my brother, one time when we moved next door and built the other house, we had a big oil tank there. And my brother thought it would be fun to fill the oil tank up with whatever he could find, rocks and sticks. He worked on that for a long time, until the oil tank finally stopped up. And they dug the oil tank out and found out what had happened. They had to dig the whole front yard up at that point. And, of course, they weren't happy about that, about my brother doing all that. I mean, we were left by ourselves. So we did a lot of things that we shouldn't have done and didn't know we weren't supposed to do. It seemed like fun, at the time. I wasn't part of that. I can tell you that. I wasn't a part of that. I probably put him up to, but I wasn't a part of that. But, you know, we sold that house in '95 and I think that the people that bought it are still there. And Madeline and Matthew McCauley, the little children that have grown up since in that house, they were in my class when I taught at Asbury. And the mother, Louise is her name, and Mike is the dad. As far as I know, they still live in that house, and they bought it in '95. And we seldom-- When we went to church, I saw where they were asking

about that. If I went to church, it was usually with the Pinkstons, who were members of the Presbyterian Church. And we were Presbyterians, the First Presbyterian downtown, but my parents, they donated to the church, but they didn't go. And because I loved the Catholics so much, and once we got out of the Catholic school, I went to the Presbyterian Church sometimes with the Pinkstons on Sundays and got to stay over and have fried chicken at their house. I knew there was a big lunch afterwards. So we did that, too. But I didn't go to church that much. I was married in the Presbyterian Church downtown, but I didn't go to church much after I got up a little bit. Probably ten, I quit going to church. My brother never went. But I went because I used to think it was special, you know, even though my parents didn't want to go. They were married in the courthouse downtown, in 1934. I've seen pictures of that. Daddy died in '84. That was 50 years after they were married. They got married in, I'm thinking it was, September and Daddy died in November.

PF: What did he do for a living?

AD: Daddy was a, he worked as a Vice-President at Asheville Savings Bank, which was Asheville Federal Savings & Loan. He went to work there in 1952. He had been with the optical company that the Fluhartys ran. He worked for the Fluhartys for a while. He worked for Harry's for a while. Mama and Daddy lived in Tennessee to begin with, Johnson City. And Daddy had a business where he sold sheets to people. I don't know what that is. Some sort of business. He sold sheets to the guy that started Kentucky Friend Chicken., Colonel Sanders. He used to live down in Sanders Court there on Merrimon Avenue. But my grandmother was always helping my father, because I told you--well, I don't guess I told you. But my father had a little brother that drank lye when he was about two

or three. They had black servants, too, but they had a whole house full of black servants. Because they lived out back of the house in Selma. And the black servant was supposed to be watching my little--Daddy's little brother. And he drank lye that they made the lye soap with, and it killed him. So when Daddy was born, he probably wouldn't have been, because his brother and sister were already much older. And then that baby died. So then Daddy was born because his mother was so heartbroken when she lost that baby. So there was a mammy assigned to Daddy, 24 hours a day. And Daddy was not all that well. He had some breathing problems and stuff, too, and I don't know the extent of all that. I know he was a heavy smoker later in life. But as a child, he was not well, and probably because my grandmother doted on him so much, and wanted to make sure nothing happened to him. Daddy started driving at ten and smoking at ten. He had a Model T Ford he drove. And Daddy was a wild child, too, pretty much like my brother. Because they really couldn't manage my father. He came here and went to the high school here for just a short period of time, and then his father, before he died, sent him to Staunton Military Academy in Virginia, just to try and straighten him out. And Daddy had a hard time learning, too. I think he had some problems there. And then from Staunton he went to the University of Virginia and dropped out of the University of Virginia after about a year. He was a gymnast there. He was an amazing gymnast. He could do just amazing things. He just couldn't do the schoolwork. My brother was really not capable of doing schoolwork much, either. I don't know what that means. I don't know if they had the same sort of learning problem, or what it was. But Daddy wanted to be a CPA. That was the last thing after he sold sheets and worked for Harry's and worked for the optical company. And his mother said, "Well, you know, you've got to do

something. You want to go to CPA school and maybe learn how to do that". And he couldn't pass the exam. But he got hired at Asheville Savings & Loan to be their person that does the books, even though he hadn't passed the CPA. I think he was studying, maybe, at the time, but just never passed it. But he stayed on there and was the treasurer, what they called the treasurer, I guess for the years there. He started working there in '52 and he retired in, I'm thinking '74 or '-5, maybe. And then we had moved to Durham and in '77 Daddy-- Mr. Westall, who had taken over being president of Asheville Savings & Loan, passed away unexpectedly. And Daddy had gotten a fellow that he knew that worked at IBM, Mr. Prescott, to come and interview for that job, for the president's job. And Mr. Prescott got the job. And I think he felt a little bit like he owed Daddy something, you know, for helping him get that job. And so when we were in Durham, Daddy called us and said, "I want you back up here. I need help". Mama at that time was worse and Daddy was drinking, too. They neither one could really manage too well. And they didn't know my children and I knew they never would if I didn't come back up here, because they weren't one to travel and do that kind of thing. So Daddy said, "I can help with a job", because Bill was managing the food stamp program in Durham County, at that time. He said, "Come on up and interview for this job". And Mr. Prescott gave Bill the job. So he started working there in '77.

PF: Wow, and he retired from there.

AD: Yeah, after 38 years, in 2015.

PF: Now, the Prescotts, did they live down on North Griffing?

AD: Yeah.

PF: And they had a son Neal?

AD: Neal. And then Pat, their daughter, and another daughter. They had just three or four. I can't really remember. They lived on--

PF: I knew Neal through antiques.

AD: Pat married a McClellan, Tom McClellan, who's an attorney. And they live over in North Asheville now, like there at the golf course on one of those streets that goes right up through there. And they had four children. They had twins and then two others. But, you know, Mr. Prescott was a really sweet guy. Still lives-- He married a high school sweetheart when his wife died. When Mrs. Prescott died, he hooked up with somebody at a high school reunion and married her. So he's married again, and I think South Carolina may be where they live. I'm not positive about that. But he sends us a Christmas card every now and then. He was really good to Bill. But Bill started out as a branch manager. Wherever he was a branch manager there was a robbery. Seemed like they never had robberies before, armed robberies with masked people, you know, where they locked you in the vault. He opened up the one on Tunnel Road, Bill did, as the branch manager, they were robbed there. He came back downtown, they were robbed. They'd never been robbed. He got robbed out on, the one on Patton Avenue. There's been three or four robberies. I don't know. But I didn't know--I had little children and I really didn't know what was going on until it was over with and he called me on the phone and said, "I can't say much about this, but we were locked in the vault by people with semi-automatic weapons, you know, and they were masked and we thought we were--" I guess they thought they were all going to die. And Bill being the branch manager, you know, he was forced to do whatever he had to do, open the vaults or whatever he had to do for them. But there were some scary situations. They even hard a hostage situation one time where Bill was

downtown and his branch manager called him and said, "They have my daughter and they're watching the branch". And they first got me. I don't know where Bill was. They had to find him. I think maybe he was off. I don't know what was going on. But Becky called and said "They have my daughter and if I don't do this, this and this, they're going to kill her and what should I do?" And so I got Bill somehow, wherever he was, and they found out it was all a hoax. Because Becky found her daughter, but the guy was actually in the K Mart shopping plaza watching the bank to see if they would do what he said.

PF: And did they get the guy then?

AD: I don't know if they ever caught him. But Becky's daughter was safe. But the situations, they had never had robberies in Asheville much to amount to anything.

PF: I guess these cameras help cutting that down. What do you recall around Beaver Lake and that area, the lake itself. Was the pool there when you lived in the area?

AD: No. Now, my mother, you know I told you she lived on Evelyn Place. They moved here in 1916. And my mother would take the streetcar, the trolley that ran from Charlotte Street and the last stop was there at the swimming pool. So I've seen pictures of that, but the swimming pool was completely gone by the time that, when I was a little girl. We could wander all over Beaver Lake. A duck actually followed me home one day. I had a pet duck. I think it was a baby, as a matter of fact. But we used to go down there and there was a big culvert down there that we crawled through that was really dangerous. And I know the sheriff was after us, I think, at one time, my brother and me. This was when we were older and should have known better. This was when we were like 12, around in there. And I was

still hanging out with all the boys, because there really weren't many girls. We just were all over. Charles was with us, I know that. And Bill and, oh, I'm trying to think of the people down the street. The Grooms, you know the Grooms? You don't know the Grooms much? Well, they grew up in that big sort of Tudor house there at the bottom of--it was Windsor and Wembley, and Kingwood, right down there. And they had I think six children maybe. I can't really remember. And Ellen Carr, who was Ellen Resnikoff, whose family started the Tops for Shoes, and we all used to walk home from the bus together. Because the bus stop was right down there at the bottom of Wembley. But Beaver Lake was a draw. It wasn't as much as a walking place, as I remember, as a child, as it was just a place to, you know, to be there for kids. But there was no swimming pool at all and you weren't allowed to swim in there. You could take the boats in there. I never did take a boat, that I remember. Daddy didn't have a boat down there either. So I don't know that that was, as far as recreation, that we could do anything like that. But being that my parents were older, I guess, and I was not supervised, crossing Merrimon Avenue--I guess it wasn't nearly as dangerous as it is now. But we had to watch because, of course, there were more cars down there than there would have been in our Neighborhood. But I remember that that whole area over there, the clubhouse sat there for the golf course, that's now where the little shopping center is. And I think that was a restaurant, maybe, at one time. But they had a rat problem down there. So they had to close that restaurant.

PF: That was a steakhouse, I remember.

AD: Yeah, they had to close that because of the rats. I guess from the lake area, I guess it was. But there as a clubhouse for a while there. Of course, Rolling Pin Bakery was there that the Wrights ran.

PF: Oh, yes.

AD: And Rebecca was one of my friends from high school and she worked there every day after school. She got off the bus there and worked with her dad and mom. And probably worked there in the morning, too. They were the hardest-working people. They had the best food.

PF: Everybody got their cakes from there, I remember, when we came here.

AD: If you want a cake that's very similar, Heidi down here at the Bake Shoppe, her mother and grandmother used to work there. They had some of the old recipes. And as long as Heidi holds on, I still get my cakes from her. She does make some pretty good cakes. Just order ahead. She's a kind of a laid-back person, so if you have to check and see if she's there or whatever. But they bought a lot of the equipment when the one out in South Asheville, Mountain Bake Shop, what was it called. It went out of business recently and they also were relatives of the Wrights. I think it was his son-in-law that was running that one. Carolina Mountain Baker I think is what they called it. But Heidi bought some of the equipment, the old equipment that had been part of the bakery from the Wrights' bakery. But it used to be Moore's Bakery. It was the bakery to go and that's where my wedding cake came from, Moore's Bakery. It was on Merrimon Avenue. It ended up being a music shop later but Mr. Wright learned how to be a baker from Mr. Moore.

PF: Oh, I know where you mean.

AD: So when he decided to go out on his own, he moved from the Moore's Bakery and opened up his own shop, the Wrights' Bakery. So a lot of the old recipes from Moore's Bakery went to the Wrights, then Heidi has

some of those. She doesn't have a variety of things like the Wrights' bakery used to have.

PF: Did you know, a little bit further out on the left, there was a farm. Goodmans had a farm. Sort of down by where Reece's Tire is now? And then in front of that, kind of.

AD: I don't remember that.

PF: Two people have mentioned that.

AD: Down below the lake?

PF: Well, beyond the lake, you know, going on out near what was Beaver Lake Restaurant. Across from that and in there, there is a big church there where kids play baseball.

AD: Yeah. Yeah, the only time we pretty much went out Weaverville Highway was to go to Hadley's. It was out Reems Creek Road. It was an outlet for Hadley's sweaters, years ago. And the only--for some reason, Mama didn't think you were ever supposed to go into Woodfin. I don't know. I had that boyfriend I told you about that lived in Woodfin. She said, "Do you want to live like this?" She took me to see where he lived there in Woodfin. But my sister, when she would come back to town, when she was married and all, it was a big deal to go out there to Hadley's because they had cashmere sweaters and lamb's wool sweaters. And they had big tables of them. So you just had to find your size and they were a whole lot cheaper than if you went to buy them. Then that brand was sold to Dalton and Dalton sweaters now. And I guess, as far as I know, the Dalton brand is still out there. But Hadley was run by Mr.--I'm trying to think of their--Taylor, Mr. Taylor, who lived there near the Grove Park Inn and then had the twins, Sally and Bam. And Sally was the queen of the Rhododendron

the year I was presented. But Mr. Taylor ran the factory out there, Hadley's factory.

PF: What year was that when you were presented?

AD: I was presented in 1969. You had to be not engaged and not married and you had to have two escorts. And, of course, Bill and I were secretly engaged before that. And my dress that I wore was going to be my wedding dress, without the train. So we got double use out of that. But my sister was the queen of the baby parade, in the Rhododendron. They used to have a big parade downtown. They stopped doing that after the war. I don't think they ever had another parade. This was before the war. She would have been three which would have been about 1941. She was the queen of the baby parade and she had a beautiful white dress and a crown and all. I've seen pictures of that, too. But as Daddy was a member of the Royal Brigade of Guards, and if you were going to be presented, you had to be a member or you had to be recommended by a member to get into the Brigade of Guards. And that was right before I was going to be married and then it was a question as to whether or not Mama was just going to pay for me to run away, because she didn't think the marriage was going to last to Bill, probably, or because I was in the Rhododendron. And then in January this would have been June, and then in January I was married in '70, so it wasn't much time there. So she was not wanting to spend all the money on both. It was a big deal, a lot of money, because you had to buy the white dress, you had to go to the parties. There were several parties. And the men had to be trained on etiquette, too, the escorts. It was a pretty big deal. But I said, "My sisters did it, you know. I want to do it, too". They got married in a white dress, although my sister that got married, my first sister that got married, they got married in Hawaii. He was in the Navy. Mama just sent

her dress over there. They didn't go. Her first child, she didn't go to the wedding. We had a reception at the house beforehand and then she was just shipped off to Hawaii. And then I didn't see my sister again for four years, I guess. That sister. And then that marriage didn't last. Mine did, but hers didn't. She did end up being married quite a while, though, before it broke up. Because she had the two children and moved to Florida. After she moved here with the boys, he managed to get back with her. I guess she forgave him or whatever and they moved to Florida together for a little while. And they didn't divorce until about the time Bill and I got married in 1970. And she probably got married in, two years before Ruth. Ruth got married in '58 and Jean got married in '56. So Jean's marriage lasted from about '58 until about '70. But it was a rocky relationship after he got out of the Navy and I don't know what kind of a job he had in Florida. But Ruth's been married. She married the boy next door, because B.A. was in the Algary house, which was on the corner there of Wembley and Kingwood, the brick house where I went in the chimney. She married B.A. who was a little bit younger than Jean, but a little bit older than Ruth, my sister. So my oldest sister had a crush on him, too. But because she was a little bit older than the younger sister, Ruth married him. So when he went to Chapel Hill, Duke and then Chapel Hill Med School and was a doctor in Greenville, South Carolina, after he went into the Army, he was an Army doctor for a while. You know, just to do your--the basic, what is it, two or three years. But Mr. Algary ran Penney's here. He moved here from South Carolina. They transferred him here to run the Penney's here. And Katherine was his sister. And Katherine was a little bit younger than--maybe she was about the same age as Ruth. Younger than Jean but about the same age as Ruth, maybe. And Katherine now lives in Greenville, also, close to them, his

sister. But Ruth, my sister, he was a heart doctor for Eisenhower when he was in South Carolina. Was it Columbia, maybe? I remember going there when I was about 12, and it was so hot there. You couldn't go outside. It was terrible. And he was stationed there and happened to be President Eisenhower's heart surgeon. Because Eisenhower was playing golf there at one of the big golf courses. I'm not sure even what that was. But has a signed plaque on his wall from Eisenhower saying "Thank you". I think he had a heart attack, actually, while he was there. But B.A. was not ever able to operate because he had--his hands shook. So he did catheterizations instead. So he wasn't an actual surgeon. But he was just a heart doctor. But anyway, Ruth and B.A. settled in South Carolina. In fact, near where Mr. Algary's family was, the older man, this would have been her father-in-law, back near there. Greenville was probably near the home place, where they all grew up. I don't know much about Mrs. Algary other than she was very similar to Mama, other than the fact that Mama didn't take pills, as far as I knew. But Mrs. Algary took pills and she drank, too. So she was pretty much out of it most of the time. And she was older, like my mother, and she came down to talk to Mama occasionally. But I know Katherine, the daughter, was closer to my mother than I was. And I was closer to Mrs. Pinkston than I was to my mother. Certain girls found, I guess, you know, somebody that could help them more than their own mother would.

PF: Role model, mentor.

AD: Yeah. But Ruth married sort of the next-door neighbor. And then Jean married Louis, and that may be some of the fights that she had with my mother at the table. Because Mama didn't like that family either, and didn't really want her to marry him, I don't think. I was a little girl, so I did like B.A. That's Ruth's husband. I didn't much like Louis, either. He

was not somebody I felt comfortable with. I just, you know, he always used to want to put me on his lap and stuff like that and I just didn't--I didn't take to that. But he's still alive. My sister's passed away. She died in 2008 of cancer, Jean did. But she smoked a lot, you know, she drank a lot of Coca-Cola. She was in the banking business, too, and she retired pretty much from that in Florida, in Tampa. That's where she ended up settling. But she came back here after Mama died. She moved back here in '96. Said she would never come back to Asheville until Mama was gone. Because, I mean, they literally fought all the time. Kind of like my brother. She and my brother fought a lot. So they were not happy memories for Jean. Or for Bill. But Ruth and I were similar and we did everything that we could to make Mama happy. Whatever it took, you know, we went out of our way to do more in the house and help her or do whatever, you know. We were cooperative children. You didn't want to be uncooperative because it wasn't a pretty picture. But and those memories, I guess of the abuse, were-- What I didn't realize, you know, until later, were not normal. But like I said, you could see a nice house in North Asheville and not know what is going on behind the walls. Know it was maybe upper middle class so it didn't matter. Similar things went on everywhere, I'm sure. So it's not necessarily as happy as you thought it was, but if you're a survivor and you look at the bright side, that it made you stronger, you know, I think that's a good thing, because you survived it, and came out the other side knowing how to maybe make your family life happier.

PF: Right. You have a second chance with your own family.

AD: Yes, with your own family. And so, in a way-- Tricia and I talk about that. Because her family was a lot the same way, with the abuse and all that. Her father actually abused her mother. But we both talk about how

we were protective of our children and maybe too protective of them, that they didn't know the real world as much as we did when we left there. And Tricia ended up having to adopt. She never could really have her own children, which was sad. She loved animals a much as I did. But she--and you might need her in an interview, Tricia. She probably knows a lot about North Asheville and would remember a lot more than I can.

PF: You're doing pretty good.

AD: Yeah, Windsor was that other street that was where she grew up. She was one street back behind.

[Took a break.]

PF: Do you remember a trailer park over where Steinmart is now? A couple of people have remembered a trailer park where Steinmart is.

AD: A trailer park where Steinmart is. That was always a shopping center, when I was a little girl, as I remember it. Well, the big shopping center was down there where Marco's Pizza and the grocery store are now. That was the big shopping center where A&P was, probably down there. Then they had the Winn-Dixie, too, down the street. But a trailer park? I don't remember that. There was a nightclub up there on Merrimon Avenue, at one time, there below St. Eugene's. Right there on the road, there was a Chez Paul. I've only been in there maybe once, but my brother was there quite a bit, I'm sure. When he probably wasn't supposed to be there.

PF: Well, how did your brother turn out. We keep hearing about him.

AD: Well, he joined the Marines in '68, I guess. He had a really bad traffic accident in Biltmore Forest. '67, I guess. He was a senior, I guess. He was drinking. There was a big party at that Town Hall there in Biltmore Forest. And maybe they had been someplace else before that. But Bill had the car, it was a great big old--Daddy's great big old Cadillac, probably.

And it held a lot of people in that car. And Bill felt capable of driving and he wasn't. And they took off down the main drag there, Biltmore Forest, the main road. Victoria Road, I guess it is. And there are some big trees that you might see there as you go down, in the median. There's a grass median there and big trees there. And Bill thought that was part of the road. And so he was going really fast. And he jammed that car in between those two trees. And one boy lost an eye. Bill was damaged really bad. He had, his leg was really messed up and we got the call late at night in '67. I think I answered the phone and Daddy had to go down to the hospital, of course, and there were some lawsuits from that, the boy that lost his eye especially. And they proved that Bill was driving under the influence. I'm surprised the Marines took him, but in '68, of course, was Vietnam. They wanted everybody. So he trained at Camp Le Jeune and went in as a Private and made Private First Class. But he had some episodes over there where he drove a general's Jeep into a swamp, you know. He did some things, the told him to go sweep a minefield and he said, "No, you go sweep it." You know, he disobeyed orders, which kept him alive, I guess. Got malaria and got shipped back to San Diego and ended up back in Asheville, probably in about '70-- Was he here in my wedding? He was in my wedding in '70, so he probably was back here then. Two years. And busted back to a Private. He made Private First Class but he was busted back to a Private. And Daddy really couldn't help him too much. He tried. He sent him to the school downtown, tried to get him a business degree. Daddy finally got him a job at the Trust Company of Georgia in Atlanta. It was a pretty good job. And Bill started doing drugs. And he had been married here and the woman, Bill found out she was having an affair. Of course, that's not what she said, but I think he did catch her once. And Mama had gotten them a house out in

Beaverdam and completely furnished it. And Bill was holding down some sort of job here, again, but the girl claimed spousal abuse and had bruises, so Daddy pretty much said, "You need to get out of the marriage. I'll just buy you out. She gets to keep everything, the house, the furniture, everything". So then Bill went to Atlanta and he met somebody else there and got into some bad episodes with drugs. He married another girl there whose father was on the Board of Directors of Coke. He was a big lawyer in Atlanta. But she was into drugs, too. And they bought a big house together and the guy just bought Bill out of that relationship. Just said, "I'll give you so much money. Just leave my daughter." He blamed Bill, but he didn't blame his daughter. But, of course, Bill's side of the story was that she was doing drugs and having other men. But he never had children, thank heavens. And he has finally gotten a hundred percent disability from the Marines. So he's able to live, but any inheritance that he got from my parents was all gone. He pretty much took it and spent and then didn't invest it wisely and ended up with nothing. He did have his house, but he had to mortgage that and then the money, he's had people after him. You know, money problems ever since. He moved back to Atlanta. The hundred percent disability may help him survive. We don't see him like we used to. But he used to come here when he needed money. And we were so close growing up that I probably would have done anything to help him, but my husband's afraid of him, because he had a big gun collection, and all this. But, you know, and he has tattoos. He doesn't look dangerous but, I mean, I know he wouldn't hurt me. But Bill just doesn't trust him. And my sister that's living in Greenville, she doesn't trust him either, and she won't have him at her house. But now he's doing okay with that hundred percent disability. He's managing to make it day to day. He does have a little thing on the side

where he cleans pools, I think, and does that. I think he's got one or two customers there. But he worked for so many different kinds of people there. He worked for a trucking company. He worked for a wrecker company. And he always would lose his job doing something foolish. So it's been a tough road for him. But he's like my oldest sister. He always has just not wanted to get along, you know. It's just been tough for him. It's just a good thing he never had children. But it's hard, you know, because we were close growing up and we kind of separated in high school because he had a couple of girlfriends and some things happened and he attacked me in the school lunchroom one day and almost broke my arm. And I had to call Daddy. Somebody had told him something I had said, which I had never done. And he kind of had, you know, images of that was the beginning of the end, I guess, you know, knowing that he had to go into the Marines. But the bruise was like that much of my arm. And I was dating Bill at the time. And I think that's another reason why he just never did trust him. But he does have sort of fits of rage. You just never know. Some of the neighbors where he lived, he's shot at them and he's had some problems with the police. He's been in jail a couple of times there.

PF: And with his disability from the military, at least he will have medical care, he will have the VA, which they say bad things about the VA, but it's there and it tries. I've had good reports with them. I think this one out here is just a wonderful place.

AD: Well, he had to commit himself at one point because he said, "That's the only way I can get a hundred percent is if I just commit myself and let them give me drugs and try to straighten me out." She had to act really crazy, and that wasn't a stretch, and so, you know, after you're committed a couple of times and then he had a bad fall at the house, too,

where it really messed his leg up. Once he fell off the roof on a ladder. My sister did end up-- But she went to that wedding when he married Lucy, the one whose father was on the Board of Directors of Coke. Ruth, my sister, actually went to that wedding. She said it was absolutely beautiful. Didn't work out though. And then he hooked up with somebody else who ended up dying of something. That was his other wife. I think he's been married three times all together.

PF: I remember reading an article, 20 years ago or more, in the paper they had a nice article about a preschool that you began with a couple of other women. Tell me about that, because that is kind of a neat thing.

AD: Yeah, I was 32 when we started that school. I started there in 1982 and the school had been at the Episcopal Church that was right below there on-- Oh, shoot. I can't think of the names of streets. But the Episcopal Church that sits on Merrimon Avenue. There was a little school there when William went. He started up in Weaverville, all of my children went to the Weaverville preschool up there.

PF: Is that the one that sits on the hill across from Fresh Market?

AD: Yeah, the really pretty church up on the hill with the red door. Well, they had started, William started school there. He was in the three-year-old program and the one in Weaverville, and then he started the four-year-old program in the Episcopal Church. And when they were there, it was in the basement. There was a small little school and the church didn't really seem to support it too much. And one of the teachers there, Wendy Trevette I think was her last name, she wanted to move it. She wanted to move the school to a better facility, a bigger facility, because she saw the need for that area for preschool, for children, you know, for parents for part of the day out. That one was 9 till 12, when I took William. And she asked

me if I would be interested. And I was 32, had three children, and William basically was the last one I had and I thought, well, sure, I could probably work part time. And Maureen Patchel, who used to live down here at the lake, she was another one who said "You ought to do it, Ann. You love children and I'm sure that everything would work out for you". And I didn't finish college. I had gone to Western for two years in early childhood education but hadn't finished because Bill and I got married and we moved away. So I never went back to it, because I had to work, for us to make ends meet. We both worked in Durham, until I had children, and then after I had my first one in '74, I didn't work until I started in when I was 32. That would have been '82. So I had eight years where I had the children and didn't work. So I said, "Sure. Part time, 9 to 12. Seems like maybe we can do it". So they talked it over and there was Wendy and Miss Beth, was William's teacher, and maybe a couple--and Miss Pam, Pam Morrison, and they decided, sure, they'd look for a facility. So they found the facility at Asbury Church there on the corner of Kimberly and Beaverdam. And talked it over with the minister and the minister said, you know, that we could rent some space there. So I was kind of like, I was sort of naive in the fact that I had never been in a business before. I was just really going in because I, you know, wanted to help with the children. And so I said I would do the three-year-olds three days a week and Wendy was going to do them two days a week. And the way that they did it was the parents signed up and they paid the teacher by the day, ten dollars a day for their child. If the child didn't come, the teacher had to get on the phone and call a substitute list to bring another child in in order to make her money for the day. Because we had to give so much of the money we made back to the school. You know, it was not for profit, to buy our supplies and things. They wanted us to

furnish the classrooms, to bring everything in. And, of course, it was where the people, they had Sunday school for the children on Sundays. But the facility basically was empty and it was where I had gone as a Girl Scout, down in the basement of that same facility when I was a little girl to see about being a Girl Scout. But here was another thing, my mother was trying to get rid of me. She said, "Sign up for these Girl Scouts. You get to do all these fun things outside". And all we did was stay inside and do stuff and I didn't want to do it. But that was my experience. I remember that room being huge but when I went back to teach there, no, it was not. You know when you're little how things look. So when I was 32 and I guess that was 1982, I said, "Okay, I'll sign on for this. We'll see how it goes". So we did that for a year. I did the three-year-olds. And then another teacher was going to have a baby. She had to leave and couldn't do the four-year-olds but a certain number of days a week. So could I maybe do the four-year-olds and work five days a week. So I said, "Well, I guess I could. I'm already doing the three days. It gives me two more days". But I didn't want to work in the three-year-olds and the four-year olds. So when the chance came up and they said would you do the four-year-olds five days, then I said. Well, actually it was up to us, because it was group of-- I don't know if you know Paula Pastalopolus or not. She was the Greek girl that came on and she was about five years younger than me. She was about 27. She took the two-year-olds because Beth had to leave. She moved out of town. She was one of the ones that helped us move. It was just sort of a combobulation of--it was a mess. Because we didn't realize that the church really didn't--what they wanted was a preschool. So once we got this all together, and we had run it for a couple of years and it was successful, the minister and one of the mothers there, that was real close with the minister, decided they wanted

it for the church. They didn't want us there, but yet they still wanted the school to pay rent back to the church, even though they took it over. So we tried to move it at that point to another facility. Wendy didn't want to go in with the church. They said, "This is your option. This is our place. You either leave or you stay and work for us and see how it works out". So this is my first experience with the way the Christians can do things. Am Arnie [Corrier] did want it because it would look awfully nice if the minister started a preschool in his facility and it was successful and it was bringing in money and helping the church. And he said, you know, "So you either work for us or you leave." That was our choice, after we had done the playground, we put up the fence, got all the playground equipment, we furnished that downstairs room where I was a Girl Scout briefly. The playground equipment. Brought in our own stuff and when we got all this going, and this was August. We were supposed to start in September. I said, "What do we do? Are you going to take our enrollment list and keep it or can we take our enrollment list and find another facility and take our people that we have with us?" And they said, "If you can find a facility, that's up to you". So I had three children at home. I had this little part-time job. Because it was 9 to 1 then. We had bumped the hours up. I said, "How can I run a small business, you know, and Wendy was all for it. She quit. Because she said, "No, I'm not going to work for the church. I'm not going to work with them. This was our business and they're taking it away from us. And it's up to you, if you stay," but she said, "I can't do it." So she left, that two-year-old teacher, and that's when Paula started. I guess that was probably the year she started, or maybe she started before that. She was working part time. But we had babies, twos, threes and at that time, one class of fours. There was a basement, too. And there were two classrooms

down there, but they didn't want us to use those. So, of course, after they took it over, it was like, yes, we'll open up the basement, too, and we'll have two four-year-old classes and two three-year-old classes upstairs and feed the threes into the fours. And two two-year-old classes now is what they had. So they were trying to feed, make sure we had enough space for everybody. So I stayed on and, you know, I'm not sure why, other than the fact that it was, you know, a good job for me. But I did start a daycare. After that, I said, "Well, you know, if you guys are going to do this, then you're going to pay me so much money, and there's no reason--" And Wendy was doing that before she left. She had a group of children that she took home every day and kept them until the parents could get them. Because 9 to 1, some people worked. They couldn't get their children. So I did before school there in the facility for a while. Then I did after school. So I would show up there at 8 and keep children from 8 to 9, then I would work from 9 to 1 and keep children from 1 to 2. And the 8 to 9 was mine and the 1 to 2 was mine. And then they came and said, "You know, if you want to do this, you're going to have to pay us to use this facility. Also, you'll have to have your own insurance, because we have liability insurance and you don't". I did at home, when I took the children home. Then I was taking them home from 2 to 6, sometimes more. So I said, "No, I'm not going to pay you to do this. I don't make enough as it is." I was charging like 50 cents an hour. So I said, "I'm taking it home". So I had these people drop their children off at 8 in the morning at home. Bill was gone usually in the mornings to go to work by then. So, and my children caught a bus or he would take them. And if they had a doctor's appointment, Bill usually did that, too. He was really--he helped me out quite a bit. And I had to up my liability insurance at home and make sure everything was up to code. I had

to get certification to get a daycare because sometimes it was more than, you know, two hours. Sometimes it was 1 to 6. Sometimes it was 1 to 7. And you have to be classified as a daycare if you have more than two children that are unrelated in your home, by the State. So I had to be licensed by the State to be a daycare. I had to have inspections and had to have, you know, fire extinguishers. I had to have a thermostat for my refrigerator. I really was kind of a hassle. But the parents, you know how nice it was to have somebody take their children from the school.

PF: Now were you still teaching there then?

AD: Yeah, I kept my job as a teacher. And then took the children home in the afternoon and then the director said that I couldn't leave at 1 o'clock. But if I had other children that I was taking care of, they were in my class. I said, "No, I have a business that I run at home now. I have to leave at 1 because I have no liability insurance here at the church, as you told me, because I couldn't do it here. And I have to take these children with me home. So if there are children left over at 1 o'clock that are still in my class, I can't be responsible for those children, if you're saying we don't have liability insurance." And so then she told me they did have liability insurance for about 15 minutes after. I mean, she came up with all this. It's just unbelievable how she did me. I had a child in my class that came, she was there at five minutes of 9 one morning. She fell on the table. She somehow got on the table and fell and hit her jaw on the table and cracked her bone and that director was in there within five minutes. Because I called the parents and said, "Come get her. I think something's wrong. She's complaining quite a bit". She said, "You know, this is not covered by liability insurance. It's your responsibility if these parents decide to sue or they decide to, you know. You have to pay for this". And he was a doctor,

the father was. They were really upper-class folks, doctors and lawyers, who brought their children there. And I knew most of the people. And I had grown up with some of the people and gone to school with some of the people whose children I was taking care of. So he said, "You know, it's absolutely fine. We're going to take care of all this". But I said, "So we don't have liability insurance here? Do we have anything that covers the teachers whatsoever? Or is it just covering the church?" And there was no liability to cover the teachers at all. So if something happened to a child and a parent wanted to sue the teacher. So Bill and I were nervous the whole time, because they could take everything. And we didn't have people like that, as a general rule, back then. But it could happen. It could happen. I mean, I had several instances. I took children into the graveyard because we didn't have much, places to go there. And we would, you know, take little walks around the church grounds and into the graveyard there, and walk around in there. And there was a yellow jacket's nest in there. And my children got attacked by the yellow jackets. One little boy stepped in it and my director didn't want to call the parents. She said, "It's just bee stings". I said, "These are three-year-old children who may not have ever been bee stung. You call every parent and you give them, if they want to come get them, then you give them the right to come pick them up. So we called parents and the parents were all really nice and everything was okay. And no child had a reaction, but they could have. That anaphylactic stuff is dangerous stuff. And there were a lot of things that came up in preschool, there's reasons I left, because the parents wanted you to give them medicines and stuff. And I said, "No, I can't be responsible for that". And if the director wants to do it, I mean, she became the director. She was the one

who seemed to take it over with the minister from us. And she, as far as I know, she's still there.

PF: Oh, my gosh.

AD: But she knew that I knew the history. And she was so glad when I retired, I'm sure. Twenty-five years is a long time to do that kind of thing. And as you get older, it's not fair to the children.

PF: You did that for 25 years?

AD: Twenty-five years. And I did my daycare from about 1984 until about--Mama died--probably about 1995 or '96, I did the daycare. And I had some of the sweetest children and I had parents that would show up at my door at 6 or 7. I had already fed their children. "I'm so sorry. We were out on the golf course. We completely forgot we were supposed to pick up our child." But, you know, they were sweet. And they would overpay you and they would give you nice gifts. And I had my children, so my children learned that, you know-- We had a little house then. We hadn't added on. You know, to me, it was just part of the day. And I was younger. I look back on it now and wonder how I got six in the car, maybe eight in the car.

PF: And they didn't do the seat belts like now.

AD: They didn't do the seat belts like you do now or car seats. Car seats were the thing that--we had to start taking-- I stopped taking field trips.

PF: We went back and forth across the country, I don't know how many times, with four kids, and, you know, no seat belts and no air conditioning across the desert.

AD: I would double seat belt them in the back so there would be six back there and sometimes two in the front in the seat belt, and the day I had eight I was pulling out of the parking lot of the church and a girl was flying

down the road, down Beaverdam Road. She was a babysitter for somebody else and had that child in the backseat of the car, I guess, and she hit me. I saw her coming so fast, I could hardly put it in reverse fast enough, and she hit my front end. There was eight children in the car. So I called Bill and he came and got me and I took us all home, all the eight children. Of course, I called all the parents and told them what had happened. And there was a policeman there. He switched it. He switched her as the driver of my car and me as the driver of her car. It was a mess. So the insurance was hard to figure out. Finally, they ended up paying for the damage they did to my car, because she was speeding. And they could tell that she was speeding on that road. And it was a horrible place to pull out. It was terrible. If there was anybody else parked in the lower parking lot of that church, you could hardly see around them. And the people coming around Beaverdam Road, there was a curve. So that kind of taught me a lesson. That was too many children to put in the car. I mean, my liability insurance started at 1 o'clock at the car and the house. So if there was an injury, I was covered, but still, it was taking an awful chance, it really was. There were days we had snow days. It would start snowing at like 11 o'clock. We closed at 1. The parents were at the mall and they couldn't get there to pick up their children. And the director would say, "Oh, you can't leave until your kids come home". And I'm going, you know, "I've got dogs at the house. I can't stay here. I can't keep kids here for, I don't know, three or four hours, while it's pouring down snow". I'd call Bill and he'd come with chains, pick us up, and take us down Kimberly, delivering the children. It was really, it was an experience, it really was. But I wouldn't take anything for it and I would have stayed longer, if I probably had-- I felt like my health, you know, at 57, after you've done it for 25 years, do I really want to stay there, even the four hours

a day. And the children deserve better. They deserve younger people. I had the energy, but it was tough. It really was tough. And I really did miss the children. But I didn't miss the politics of that place.

PF: It sounds awful.

AD: But they took me before the Board one time and this was after, this was when I had been there, I guess, 20 years, maybe, 21, 22 years. They took me before the Board because I had a child in the summer who had Down's Syndrome. And my director knew that special needs children, I didn't think should be in our facility. It wasn't a locked facility. It wasn't a place for children who had special needs, I mean of any kind. I had done Cerebral Palsy, I had done twins, I had done lots of other things. But this child with Down's Syndrome, in the summer. I knew her mother and she had--was actually older than she should have been to be in the class.

PF: And were they open in the summer?

AD: Oh, yeah, we had summertimes. I worked at there summers for 23 years. No air conditioning. And it was 9 to 12, three days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. I changed it from Monday, Wednesday, Friday. I said, "Huh-uh. Why don't I do Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday so I have long weekends". No air conditioning. And parents didn't know it. They just assumed the facility was air-conditioned. They dropped them off. They had no idea. And it was hot, the basement was cool, and so we had popsicles in the afternoon. See, they closed at 12. Our director that took over for summer when our other director went to Europe said "We'll do 9 to 12. It's too hot in this place to keep the kids till 1 o'clock". I had them do water play. I had them do anything I could to keep them from getting in that building, it was so hot. But--whatever I was talking about. I forgot what it was before. But I did work summers. But that was the summer I had the

girl with the Down's Syndrome. And she hit other children and, to me, putting a child like that in time out, they don't understand. And it's not really going to help their behavior. It's just going to make me feel bad for putting them there, and knowing that they don't understand why I put them there. So I went to my director and I said, "She's hit another child and I don't think I'm capable of doing this." Because during the year when she was with us, there was a shadow person. They had somebody from the County that came and helped out. In summer they didn't have funds for that. And my helper was 13, I think, in the school. So she wasn't going to help me at all. So she just got Madelyn, she would just get children to help so she wouldn't have to pay them much, to be helpers. And they'd get a little experience. You know, it was okay, I guess. So I told her, I said, "Should I tell the mother about this or what should I do?" And she said, "You can talk to Cheryl, but I don't think it's a good idea. Just do the best you can until summer school's over". And I was not one to do the best I could, usually. I couldn't keep my mouth shut. So I told the mother that morning when she brought her. I said, "You know, I've had some issues with your child. And she hit another child and I just am not capable of putting her in time out, and she doesn't have a shadow person this year. And I don't know what you want me to do but", I said, "I don't think it's fair to her for her to stay in that class". She went straight to the director, told her everything I'd said. And then she went straight to the Board and the Board brought me up on charges.

PF: Charges of what, though?

AD: Of not being someone who was accepting to children with special needs. The little girl had already gotten away from her mother at one time in that same facility, because it wasn't a locked facility, and they found

her up in the area between the graveyard and the field that they have up there now, wandering.

PF: And that had been while she was in her mother's control?

AD: That was when she was in her mother's control. And I had a classroom of 12 children, plus this Down's Syndrome, and a 13-year-old I was trying to supervise. So they brought me before the Board and I said, "You know, folks, listen. This is not a locked facility and this is not a facility that should accept special needs children. We've done it before. I've had a child with a broken leg I've tried to manage. I've had the Cerebral Palsy child. I've done the best I can. But with these kinds of children", and I even probably put it that way, "I can't manage. I feel sorry for her and I cannot discipline her". And they said that I had had lots of good recommendations and that they said that if there was another issue that they would probably have to fire me. I said, "Really? What would I be losing, actually?" Because the pay was not that good. l It was more of a volunteer position. I had no benefits whatsoever. The pay was, you can imagine, minimal. And I had no assistants for 15 years. They finally decided to hire assistants so you could go to the bathroom. Because I had a little bitty bathroom between two rooms, where the children went. And if I had to go to the bathroom, I had to leave the door open to the bathroom. It's horrible. And then you get in situations with children, you know, and all that. Can you be in a bathroom with another child, by yourself, without somebody to help. There was lots going on that changed during that 25 years. There is lots that changed. So I decided it was time to go. Because my director was never going to be sympathetic and she really-- She knew I knew everything, so when I left, she was glad, I'm sure, that I was retiring.

PF: And now it will be archived in the library.

AD: But Susan Reinhardt did an article one time, a Mother's Day article. She came after I'd been there about 20 years.

PF: That must have been the one I read.

AD: And Madelyn wouldn't have anything to do with it. She said, "I don't want anybody in here. I don't want anybody, you know". So she said, "If you want to talk to her, that's up to you". So I did. I told Susan, you know, a lot of things. And she put it in the paper and Paula agreed to talk to her, too, because Paula had had a little girl. I'd had both of her children, both of Susan's children. Susan was a great person. You know, she did a talk to William's class. William needed a grade for something. I said, "Let me get Susan. She'll help you in class". And, oh, the teacher just loved it. So William got a good grade, in literature I think, for that semester, something out there at North Buncombe. But she was a sweet person and Madelyn just didn't want our doors open to anybody and everybody. And there was an issue with one of the teachers, that I observed, some of the abuse. And I went to Madelyn about that. And the girl, I mean, I had worked with her and liked her. But Madelyn said, "Well, nobody else is going to see this. Don't you say a thing". And I said, "Well, but the child, the children are in danger of being injured. I don't want to be a part of that if I believe there's something". And next thing I know, that woman is in my class as my assistant. That's the way she dealt with stuff. If you complained about another teacher, or somebody, then chances are you're going to end up with that assistant in your class. The one who was working in real estate, that had a phone to her ear constantly, I went to Madelyn and complained about her. Next thing I know, she's my assistant. And if you're going to be somebody's assistant, shouldn't she be in the room and not off drinking a coffee or talking on the phone, or-- And the assistants pretty much learned.

You know, they worked there, they were making less than I was. You know, it's hard work if you're going to work with little children. And that's why I left the twos, because with changing diapers. And two-year-olds, they don't really want to be there. Two-year-olds don't know why they're having to leave their mothers. Three-year-olds can talk back and they appreciate what you do for them and there's a mutual respect between, you know, a three-year-old an adult. And there's still some training there, with the toilets and all that, but three-year-olds were just easier for me. They were just physically easier for me and mentally easier.

[Break.]

AD: The two-year-olds, by the end of the year, you know, you can see a lot of change. But when they start, and Madelyn was pushing younger and younger ones into the two-year-olds because the babies-- Don't ever go into a facility like that unless you want your eyes wide open. I mean, she would leave babies upstairs asleep by themselves, in the area where we had a TV and we could take children in there to watch a video sometimes. She would leave them in there and they would be screaming, and if you would pick them up, "No, no, they have to learn. They have to learn". I don't know. We had children who would use the Y across the street and sometimes to go over there and play. We'd go over there in the spring because the Y said it was okay. We had a teacher who told a little boy, he was for years old, maybe going on five, he could go to the bathroom. Well, he didn't know there was a bathroom there at the Y and nobody went with him. She where did he go? Back across the street, by himself, back to Asbury. And when they came back across the street, there he was. She had never missed him. I caught several just trying to run into the road, who wandered. And I said, "You know, this is just an accident waiting to

happen". I mean, these are children we are dealing with. So there were a lot of things that just--that you--

PF: Wow. Now when did you start getting multiple dogs? Did you always have multiple dogs?

AD: I probably always did, because, let's see. I had Charlie, Charlie and Coco when Bill and I got married. Coco was my first dog after we got married that Mama bought, because she said, "You husband doesn't want a dog, so I'm going to buy you one". So she bought that dog. She also bought me a dishwasher because he didn't want one of those, after Russell was born. "You need a dishwasher. I'm getting you a dishwasher". Bill didn't want any appliances because they were trouble and knew they were going to break. His mother always hand-washed the dishes, you know. But she got me that little dog and soon after we got Coco, then Bill agreed to let me get Charlie, because we both worked and we weren't home all day. I don't know how those two little dogs survived in that apartment in Durham. So we got the little Yorkshire Terrier. So we had a little Yorkshire Terrier and that little Chihuahua in the apartment in Durham. And we'd come home and things would be chewed up. They chewed up the woodwork. We had to fix all that, because we had a deposit on the apartment. So when we moved back to Asheville, we had those two. And then I guess Coco-- Charlie got old or ran away. Somebody found him, thinking he was a puppy, and brought him back. Coco we had to have put to sleep right before that. We had Charlie put to sleep. And then I guess we got the Cocker Spaniel for Bradley, and then after-- We sort of got more and more. And when I didn't work, it was easier for me to have more. I guess that's it. But with Mama having 50 Pekingese at one time, you know, I was used to dogs. And I helped, I'm sure, with all of that. And like I said, I watched them being

born, I watched them with they fought, I fed them and all that stuff. So I always grew up with animals and we had the skunks, we had the possums, we had chickens, rabbits, ducks. I can't think of much we didn't have. And at my house we had--

PF: Right there in North Asheville, huh?

AD: Right there. Oh, yeah. We raised guinea pigs in the basement for a long time. Tricia and I exchanged Guinea Pigs and we had hamsters. And Guinea Pigs have babies right after they have babies. They get pregnant again and had more babies. Then flying squirrels that we had from just the trees. You know, we had flying squirrels and gray squirrels that we raised, just from the trees. Mama bought the skunks from a catalog, descented. And those were like cats and they just wander around and use a litter box. And the possum that got killed in the front yard, had about six or seven babies and they pouch those babies. And we couldn't get any of them to live but the one, so we had that possum as a pet for a long time. And we never had cats but we always had lots of dogs and birds. Mother liked parrots, little parakeets, and I have parrots. Two of those at the house and plus the fish. She never had fish but we got us a pond full of fish in the backyard. Big koi, you know, and we've had them in there since '97. They're huge. We've got six of those and some shubinkins and goldfish, too. But the dogs, I didn't have so many when I was working. But I got home at 1, so it wasn't so bad, or 1:30. So if I had the dogs, I was leaving them at about 8:15 and get back home about 1:30 and they were okay with that, I guess, most of the time, and had a litter of puppies along about '84 with the silky terrier that I bought. So we had one litter of puppies during my time. I would never do that again. I know what my mother must have gone through. That is something. You just want to get them all to where you

could place them and then trying to place them with somebody that you felt like they would be good with and there were six of them. Then I started with the Maltese for a while, couple of those. I don't know. Just habit, I guess, hobby or something. Keeps me busy for sure.

PF: Well, can you think of anything more about North Asheville? My goodness. What are the other activities you did, like the Rhododendron and all that stuff? I don't have any real society stuff yet.

AD: Well, and I didn't, as a child, because I didn't do the Girl Scouts, but it would have been there at Asbury Church. That's where the North Asheville group met, was right there. I think Nora Hall was probably in that group. Probably some of the other people that I knew, too, were probably in there. And Dr. Watts, I grew up with his little girls. They were twins and he had two other children. Dr. Watts lived up on Town Mountain. And Helen and Ruth, I met them, I guess early on, but ended up meeting back up with them at Jones School. So a lot of the girlfriends that I had early on that didn't go to St. Genevieve's, were back at Jones. That may be another reason why my mother, because she knew the mothers, so maybe another reason she put me in school back at Jones, rather than the nuns, you know, and I wanted to be a nun. I don't know, but a lot of my girlfriends that I knew, of course, were in the Rhododendron. Quite a few of those with me in that presentation. Like I say, Sally was the queen. She was in my high school class. And Bam, I believe, was the king. That was her twin brother. I believe that year brother and sister were king and queen.

PF: And what was their name?

AD: Taylor. His name was Granville Taylor. I think his dad's name was that, too. And they lived over near the Grove Park Inn, one of those back streets over there off Kimberly. And Becky Reynolds whose father

was a contractor. We were good friends. And both of the Watts girls were in the Rhododendron with me. There were a lot from-- I guess there were probably, I bet there were twelve girls, maybe, and that's a lot. Nowadays they have them from all over, the girls in the Rhododendron, and they keep it a secret. They don't publicize the Rhododendron like they used to because at one point the paper took issue with them because the black girls didn't get the publicity that the white girls were getting. And the Rhododendron didn't allow Jewish people, black people. I mean, it was one of these Southern, things like I was telling you about my dad. So in order to get into the Rhododendron, you had-- The club didn't allow Jewish people to go, the Asheville club. Jewish people, black people, none of that. I mean it was a lot of segregation in the fifties and sixties, of course, and that didn't all change, really until the seventies. Asheville High was not really integrated until after I graduated in '68. We had a few black folks in my class. Some of the basketball players. There were two girls that I remember in my graduating class, but not that many. And that was one reason why people went to private schools, I suppose. Daddy didn't really want us with black people at all. So I thought something might be wrong. They were, of course, at the house, so I thought "What could possibly be wrong?" I don't know. It's something about growing up in the South, I guess, in the deep South. In Alabama, I'm sure Daddy's father probably knew people in the Ku Klux Klan. But Daddy's father, that's what he staffed with in that candy company. There was no air conditioning, it was open air, to make that hot candy, stir it in pots. And they would say "nigger done white-eyed", and they'd move him out and move in another one? That's what Daddy said.

PF: What does white-eyed mean?

AD: Meant they fainted. Their eyes rolled back in their head. And they just laid out on the floor. And they'd carry those out and bring in others. They had to make the money, to do that job. That's how Daddy's father made his money was in that candy company. I mean, the times were different and people, you know, they take issue. Because Bill said, some of the stuff you might say might get into the wrong hands. Like the Spicer-Greene billboard ad thing that's going on now. You know about all that.

PF: I read about it, yeah. It's how you decide to take it, almost.

AD: Like you decide--exactly. And history is history. And it's the way that folks were then.

PF: It's out of context, when you look at it later, when you don't know times were then.

AD: And if you didn't really experience anything else, and now all of a sudden you've got people that are--you've got all the children that are coming into the Alabama schools, the black people, those people were going crazy, but I'm not sure why. Because the way of life was changing, they saw this as them being able to get an education, them being able to take their jobs, them coming into the community not being separate.

PF: Much like the immigration thing that's going on right now.

AD: That's going on right now.

PF: But it's been each nationality, each ethnic group, as they've come in they've had to fight that battle, all the way back. Even Irish people that look like everybody else. Or white Europeans.

AD: Exactly. Or women. Still their fighting. And my grandmother, being the first woman legislator from the State of Alabama, she was a trailblazer there, because she did all that picketing and all that, the women's right to vote back then. She couldn't vote. And then she got the right to vote

and then she got in--she was all about children and trying to change things for education. That's how she got elected. But she worked hard and she wasn't home. I mean, she was definitely a suffragette that, where you look back and "your place is in the home with your children". She wasn't that. So she was definitely-- She went to, I think it's Peabody University in Nashville. They had a home, they actually moved there so she could go to school there. Because a lot of women didn't finish college, they didn't go to college. So all along my grandmother was really-- And I don't know that much about her background, other than her mother and father were well to do. I know that. And I'm sure that may be why she was so much younger when she married my grandfather, because maybe they didn't want her to marry somebody that wasn't well to do, and that could support her. She really supported herself and she did fine. But, of course, she lost her husband. I guess he died, like I said, in '28 and she didn't die till '49. That's what, 18 years?

PF: Twenty-one years.

AD: Twenty-one years. Yeah. So that's how much longer she lived. And she did go back and forth to Alabama, I know that, to live in the wintertime. She'd go back to Alabama. And live probably in that house on Dallas Street up until then. Up until she died. That's been turned into a State historic site and the people that lived there did let us go through there years ago in the downstairs area. We got to see the cookhouse out behind and the slave area where the slaves lived. It was like going back in time. But it was interesting to see that. And then Mama, see, came from Ohio, and her father was a dentist. So, you know, she came from a pretty good family, too. Although, when she came here with her mother and moved in with her grandmother and her mother's sister, then they ran that rooming house there

on Evelyn Place. It was a room and board, so that's the way her grandmother, Mama's grandmother, made her money.

PF: What number was that?

AD: It was the one that got torn down there where the Unitarian Church is. The only house on the street that's ever been torn down. To begin with, when they moved here in--they built that house and it had already been built when Mama moved here in '16. So they must have built that house a couple of years earlier. And then my grandmother and her daughter, Aunt Ruth, tried to run it. And then when--and Aunt Ruth also was working for Mr. Seely, I think mostly my grandmother was probably running it to keep them going. And it was room and board. So you could rent a room for the day, like Thomas Wolfe's mother did. Thomas Wolfe's mother rented out rooms, too, to people that were sick. That's how Thomas Wolfe got tuberculosis, because she took in that guy that time that had TB, and that's where Thomas Wolfe caught it.

PF: What did she do for Mr. Seely?

AD: She worked for the homespun shop.

PF: Oh.

AD: Yeah, she worked for the homespun shop.

PF: Do you know anything about that?

AD: No, not much. We got some fabrics from there. I think she helped in the fabric area. She helped with that part of it. She might have helped, also-- I'm thinking back now. It seems like Mama told me that she might have been like his secretary. She did some book for him, too, maybe, Aunt Ruth did.

PF: Yeah, they took a lot of orders.

AD: Yeah. And Aunt Ruth was the one that shot herself, you know, when her sister took her beau away. So Aunt Ruth, even though she shot herself, I guess she was pretty smart, and never married. So here you were. My mother was being raised by three women. Her mother and her aunt and her grandmother. And she was an only child, my mother, so she would never let me forget that, because she would tell me stories about what my grandmother-- She slept with my grandmother. What my grandmother would do when she came home from dates and stuff. My mother was weird but she was weird, I think, because of her upbringing, I guess. She said boys tied her to a tree one time and she told me all these weird-- I don't know if it was all true, but she was abused, I guess, at some point, by somebody, especially her mother, at least in the bed. Do things to my mother and my mother said things you probably wouldn't even want to know about. So I guess-- And Mama didn't marry until she was 21. Daddy was 24 when they got married. So Daddy was a quiet, shy, reserved person and my mother was this outgoing crazy table dancer, you know. Daddy was attracted to her, I'm sure because she was worldly. My [paternal] grandmother didn't like her at all. But finally she did after Mama drove her around and was her servant, basically. I don't think she liked Mama's background.

PF: And your mother didn't like any of her sons-in-law.

AD: Oh, and that may be why. Well, she was one to think that you ought to always marry within your station or above your station.

PF: Was that why she didn't like Bill? And he's the nicest guy.

AD: That's why she didn't like any of them. Because he came from a mill town and his mother worked and I guess she found out eventually, she found out his father had committed suicide. She may have known that before I did. But they, whenever I would date anybody, they would find out

where they lived, what they did. Daddy had a shotgun on the front lawn one day, chasing off a boy. And he lived right over there off, down there where the--oh, what is that place--the toy shop, that street that runs by the Presbyterian Church. Right there. He lived right off that street right there, and she didn't like him, but he was a little bit older than I was and he was a good friend of my brother's and she was afraid that he was doing things that he shouldn't have been doing. And he came to the house to pick me up or see me or something one day. And Daddy picked up the shotgun and said, "Boy, you go home and you don't come back here". But he used to let me go to school with him. He had an open-air Jeep with no top on it. He'd pick me up and pick Bill up, and he dropped me off at David Millard and then he dropped Bill of when they went to school. Because they were in the same grade. So I guess I got to know Brit a little bit that way and I, you know, your brother's friends, you know. And so he started liking me. And I thought, well, you know, why not? I'll go out with him every now and then. And I guess Mama and Daddy figured that wasn't such a, you know, I was 15. And, you know, 15, you and I talked about, is a dangerous age. But, yeah, Daddy was out there with a shotgun. Daddy was a character. He was really a character. He had certain things, he wouldn't eat tomatoes. That was a Southern thing. He wouldn't eat any tomatoes. He wouldn't eat any pork. He said pigs were not food that you should eat. Mama had a hard time, I'm sure, once the maids left. And his steak, he had to have it shoe leather. So if we were going to eat steak--of course, Mama wasn't overcooking anything, because she just wanted somebody to complain so she would--it was so funny and dinnertime was the worst. So you didn't open your mouth at dinnertime. And my brother loved it, so he would always open his mouth. And my oldest sister did. And there were fights at

the dinner table, you know, all the time. But now Bill finally hit her one day. He finally hit my mother. And it wasn't good, but she kept pushing him and she should have known, you know. He's a grown man now, you can't--and he tried to move back in with them when he came back from Vietnam. She was fond to tell him you can't come in at this time, you're going to have to work, she was in his face all the time. They should have never let him move back in there. That would have been the best thing to do. But they, his whole life, they gave him a car, gave him money, gave him what he wants. And then, all of a sudden, say no? I mean, you know. So he was on his own and it wasn't easy for him, because he didn't have an education. And he wasn't going to get an education. Blanton's is where they tried to send him and he couldn't do it there either. I don't know what was wrong. He did have roseola as a child. And he had a high fever and my mother and then my father, every time he would take him out he fell on his head. My mother blamed it on Daddy. But he said he wasn't quite right because he had that high fever and then he had that, the falls, where he hit his head several times. I don't know. But we were awfully close. If I hadn't had Bill, you know, growing up as a child, because we were just like this. We just had each other. And Mama would send us up to take a nap every day when you normally don't do that when you're five and six. And so Bill and I slept in the same room, and I would just tell him stories until he fell asleep. Then he would go to sleep and I'd still be talking. And then the next day he'd say, "You going to tell me more about Mr. Osborn", because that was the character I made up, and tell the long stories to him and he'd just go to sleep. I didn't read him stories because I couldn't read. And he was older than I was, but he didn't ever want to read. He never did have a book that I

can remember. That's part of his problem, that he never liked to read. Never did really like books. Growing up is tough for anybody, I suppose.

PF: Well, you had an interesting life, I'll give you that.

AD: Yeah. I should bring you that book over sometime. My great uncle, who would have been my grandfather's brother, fought in the Civil War. He wrote a book called *War Boy*, and it sort of gives a lot of family history. For Christmas last year, I guess it was, he found me a first edition of *War Boy*. There weren't many out there. And he had to pay pretty much for it, but I think we may have one. I can bring you the first edition, but Bill's not really allowing me to touch it. But there is one that we Xeroxed and I may be able to put my hands on that.

PF: And who is the author of it? What was the name?

AD: Well, he would have been a Wilkins. And there were eight children, I think, in the family. He would have been one of the oldest. Daddy's father was one of the youngest. He didn't go to the Civil War. But you can imagine, if he fought in the Civil War in 1864, he must have been born-- And I think he went at 15, maybe, into the war. So it really is an interesting book. I'll try to find it. I'll see if Bill can find it. We had a, like I said, we Xeroxed it. It had Confederate money in the back of it that he had, I guess we had put there, somebody had put there. But Mama sold that years ago. She took it out of the back of the book and sold it. And my grandmother's pearl-handled pistol that she carried on that horse to that one-room schoolhouse, my nephew has that, my sister's son has that, the pearl-handled pistol. So it still exists. It was to go to my brother, but when that time came, my sister said, can I buy that from you. Bill didn't have any money much then, and she just--whatever Bill wanted, then she just, whatever was supposed to be his, that she would just buy it from him. We

had a beautiful domed clock that they had buried in the backyard during the Civil War. It came over on the boat from France. It was one of those clocks that they use mercury on to make the gold on it. You know, it was so poisonous that people died from putting on the gilt, you probably know about that. The dome was glass and blown and probably about this big. Well, when the Yankees were coming through, the mother of the house, whoever that would have been, that would have been maybe my grandfather's mother, they dug a big hole in the backyard and anything that they wanted to save they put in this hole so the Yankees wouldn't take it. Because if they came and took your house, then they would take your stuff, too, of course. So it was kind of like the Nazis, I guess. So they buried that clock and that clock ended up being dug back up after the war and saved. And it was in my grandmother's house. And then it went from my grandmother's house to Daddy's house and sat on the mantlepiece in North Asheville for years. It had to be hand wound. You had to take the globe off and it had the handle under it. And there was the trouble with the big globe and Mama had to stand up on a stool and--didn't want to make it. So when it was time for Bill to get the clock, my brother, my sister bought it from him. Said, "No, I'm going to give you $50 or whatever. She bought it for probably nothing. And Bill agreed to it because he needed the money. She took it to somebody in Greenville who electrified it, because she didn't ever want to wind it.

PF: I would think it would be impossible to do it.

AD: No, she has electrified that clock. And my husband Bill, he just about died. He said, "I cannot believe that". But my mother's antiques, she had so much stuff. She had coin silver. She sold all of that years ago when she thought she wanted money when silver went way up way back when.

All the coin silver went. She sold Daddy's saxophone that was absolutely gorgeous. Daddy used to play the saxophone. And the whole family was musical. I told you that my Uncle Joseph, he was the opera singer. And Daddy could sing. Oh, my father had a beautiful voice. But his father said, "Boy, we can't have performers in this family until somebody makes money, so you cannot do music". So Daddy, he did sing in a couple of things in college. I think *The Pinafore,* he was in that. Taught me some of the lyrics from that. But Daddy loved to sing and had that beautiful voice. And then Joseph and Marie were the ones, they ended up teaching at the university of somewhere. He ended up being a music teacher after he did all of the touring with the opera groups. And she played the concert pianist, piano. And so they ended up settling--I can't remember. I don't think it was Ohio. See, my own husband can remember a lot of these details much better than I can. He knows my family better than I do, because he retains and I don't. I don't retain very well. But that clock is now in Ruth's house, on Ruth's mantle, electrified. But probably you'll hear about Tommy Rizzuto in some of this [interviews], too, won't you?

PF: I don't know.

AD: Have you ever heard about Tommy Rizzuto?

PF: Did he have an antiques place down on--

AD: On Beaverdam.

PF: Oh.

AD: He was a restorer. He could take any piece of furniture, copy it or fix it to make it look-- We had a wash stand that came from Alabama with a marble top on it. And the wash stand was open underneath. And Mama wanted it to have drawers. And I remember I used to go out with Mama to Tommy Rizzuto's out in Beaverdam Road. And I would have to sit

there, as a little girl, while she went through his stuff and told him what she wanted to do, maybe for a couple of hours. And he had a boy who wasn't right. I guess he had brain injury from birth. I can't remember his name. But they went to the Asbury Church, too. And he was a little bit scary for me. That may be what it all goes back to, to people with special needs. I don't know. But I was always afraid of him and he would like to come around and try to talk to me and I couldn't understand anything he said, because he couldn't really speak right and he kind of couldn't walk right. And so while Mama was off doing that, I was kind of left alone with this guy. And he was older than I was, too. And so I was afraid to go with her. Tommy Rizzuto could do anything that you asked him. That was Mr. Oats. I'm sorry. Tommy Rizzuto was downtown. He could, too. He was an antiques dealer.

PF: Yes. When we came here, there was his name on a glass pane, right down on Biltmore near Blue Spiral.

AD: Wright down Mr. Oats, because you may eventually find out some things about Mr. Oats.

PF: Was it O-a-t-s?

AD: I guess it was O-a-t-s. And he lived down Beaverdam, down there, and he had a big shop down there and could do anything with furniture. Mrs. Oats went to the Presbyterian Church and recently died, maybe five years ago. And I think her son died shortly before she did. She kept him and took care of him all of his life. And she was a really sweet person, too. But I didn't get to see her much, because Mama didn't let me go in the house. I had to stay in the yard. Mr. Rizzuto was the one that Mama, where Mama would go downtown and deal with. And he would get antiques from all over the place. So he had jewelry and stuff, too. My first ring came

from them, I think. She found a little set in a jewelry junk box and took it and had somebody uptown make a wonderful ring for me. But Mr. Rizzuto, who took over his place?

PF: Mr. Bunn?

AD: Yes!

PF: Okay. Yeah. Yeah.

AD: That's where all the antique stuff goes back to, Mr. Bunn. Mr. Bunn had took over Tommy Rizzuto's stuff, I guess when he died. And Mr. Rizzuto was actually from Italy. So he had broken English, too. He used that to his advantage. So if she was trying to deal with him, he pretended he didn't understand a lot of times.

PF: They do that even in Italy. We lived there for five years and they understand what they want to understand.

AD: It was sort of a ruse. Oh, they know, yeah. But Mama got lots of stuff from Tommy Rizzuto. If she got it there and it was broken down, she'd take it to Mr. Oats and Mr. Oats would fix it. So if Mama had problems with any-- She'd go up in Tennessee, during the Depression, and places like that. And she would ask people, she would go and knock on their door and ask people "Do you have anything you want to sell?" Because she had money. "You want to buy our table? Our dining room table?" And she would buy furniture out from under people. That's all they had. Maybe an old cherry table. And Mr. Oats would refinish it, or it would be in good enough shape that she would use it. And I don't think--she didn't really deal with it as far as selling it later on. It's just stuff that she wanted. So most of the stuff that she wanted, I think the bed that we still have, that I slept in in North Asheville, it's a poster bed, a canopy bed, and it's wormy chestnut, maybe was from Mrs. Gudger up the street. The person that had the seven-

gable house. And when she got ready to change out her furniture, then Mama got that bed from her. So she'd go in other people's houses and that was her whole thing, if you want to sell this I'll buy it. She took Mrs. Gudger's old carpet. I do remember that. She said, "Well, nothing's ever been on this carpet. I'm just going to use it". She took the rolls of carpet and she put it in the hall. Because we had dogs and, you know, you had to get rid of your carpet, eventually it was pretty bad. So she would put down their carpet, whatever.

PF: Did you know, by any chance, in that area where you grew up there, John Young?

AD: Yeah.

PF: Ralph Young was his brother.

AD: Yeah. His mother had that house there that he ended up moving into?

PF: Yeah. And he died, oh, I want to say, ten years ago, if that. And he was the grandfather of-- Well, his daughter Kim was a stepdaughter but for all intents and purposes, he was their father, and she married my youngest son. So her two boys, her two older boys, are my grandsons that I have here in Asheville. So he was their grandfather and he was wonderful. I mean, it was a loss to our whole family when he died.

AD: Oh, gosh. This is John Young?

PF: Yeah.

AD: Wow. Well, see, I didn't know him personally. I think I knew of him. A lot of people in Asheville knew of him. Yeah.

PF: Yeah, he was just such a great person.

AD: Didn't he take care of his mother then for a long time, or did he just move into her house?

PF: Oh, no. He bought that house later, much later.

AD: Really?

PF: Yeah. From somebody else and then they redid it. I mean, they did a beautiful job of it and then they flipped it. They often did that. They would buy a house and then fix it all up.

AD: Yeah, I knew he did. Because I think he did another one or two on that street.

PF: It may be. It seems to me I remember him--I mean, they lived in that house when they came into our family. And then they bought a house, well they moved over to the new section over here.

AD: Okay. I lost track of him.

PF: It was behind John Carroll's house, you know, where you turn.

AD: Right.

PF: They were on that corner where there's a lot of property and then there's a house. Or it might have been the one beyond that. But it was one of those nice houses along there. And then they bought a house out in that Hawk's Landing.

AD: Oh, yeah.

PF: That somebody had, he was always doing the deal thing. And somebody had--

AD: Started it.

PF: --started it and then he bought it.

AD: I remember. We rode by to see that house.

PF: I think there was a divorce or something. So he bought it and finished it how they liked it. I mean, they did it how they wanted it. And she still lives there. She has remarried, I don't know, five, six years ago, I guess. She didn't really intend to.

AD: [Laughing.]

PF: But anyway, I really like her, as well, Carolyn. But she grew up on the west side, she grew up in West Asheville.

AD: Well, you'll probably find a lot of people tied to a lot of different people, when you do all this.

PF: I always ask people if they knew him. Paul Rifkin knew him fairly well.

AD: I think a lot of people knew John Young. And Bill knows a lot of people. from the bank. You know, people you wouldn't otherwise think you would, you know, from all the loans and stuff that people, you know, just coming in there. Are there any other questions?

PF: Well, I think we pretty well covered it. And you really have some doozies there. This is the most interesting one that--

AD: Well, like I say, you could probably talk to several people that grew up right around in there and you'll find some of the same stories. I mean, and it's a shame. It's a shame.

[First recording ended. Began again.]

PF: You mentioned a big brick house on Wembley.

AD: Right on Wembley. As you come up Wembley, it's, I guess it's after, you know, there's a little cut-through street right there that goes to the golf course [Fairway?]. And then it's the second house up on the right. Big brick house, two stories, looks like the houses at Enka. And they built that there for the executives to stay over, whenever they came to Asheville to visit, sort of, you know, right there at the lake. I guess it was a great place for them to come and visit and a nice area. And they probably had some of those also in Enka. I imagine they built a couple of those in Enka, also. Because I know the executives lived in big homes over there that looked like

that. But this particular one was for dignitaries that came from out of town. And that's the house the Buckinghams ended up living in. They came and moved in over there when Susan was in high school and lived in that house. And my brother actually dated Susan, which was, believe me, Mr. Buckingham was not happy about. But Susan got into the Rhododendron. Daddy wanted to get her in because we were such good friends. She went to St. Genevieve's and I was at Lee Edwards. And she and my brother started dating and we were close friends so I guess she was over there a lot and she met Bill and, I guess, I don't know, I guess she liked him for a little while, until the dads kind of stepped in. My father and her father stepped in.

PF: Now what did Mr. Buckingham do?

AF: He was, I guess you'd say independently wealthy. He had apartment houses all over Kenilworth, properties. And I don't know, you know, as children you don't really know. But I think his family had a lot of money and they moved to Asheville at some point. They weren't Asheville natives, and he bought up apartment houses all in Kenilworth. Fixed them up and rented those out, several. And the Orrs did the same thing. Mr. Orr was an attorney in town and Meredith Orr was a good friend of mine and he had apartments all over, on Kimberly and all over there. Meredith grew up over that way. She didn't grow up actually in right where I did but right there at the Grove Park Inn. So Susan's family lived in that house and as far as I know, up until the last five years, her mother passed away I think in the last five years, but I haven't found the obituary and I need to really look for that. They were happy there. Mrs. Buckingham did have cancer, breast cancer, and then I think she had throat cancer, also, and I think that's what she passed away from. Then they had one other daughter, Sarah, that was older than Susan. But Susan and I were so close and she ended up marrying

an airline pilot. And you know how airline pilots are not home much and tend to have maybe other relationships, and that's what happened with her. She had two children and then she found out about that. And she was big into redoing homes, too. And she ended up living, I've forgotten where. I've lost touch with Susan completely, but she redid an old Colonial house somewhere than then they divorced and I think she lost that house and I don't know where she's ended up. I think she was sad because that happened and that's why we lost touch. She didn't know how to react.

PF: Yeah. I've had that experience.

AD: But when her dad died, I saw her. That's the last time I saw her because they had a reception at the house and I came and I saw her there. And she had somebody else with her, you know, another man. I don't know if they ever married. We caught up a little bit then. But that was, oh, 20 years ago, I think. Her mother lived beyond, even with all the medical issues she had. I suspect Sarah might have moved back in with her. Maybe her daughter moved in and helped with her. Yeah, it's amazing, that house right there. I don't know if people know that. And it's since been taken over by somebody who looks like they're doing amazing things with that house. If you drive by there. They fixed up the yard. And I don't know if they've done stuff--the Buckinghams did a little bit inside. I can't think of much else. I probably can, but--

END OF INTERVIEW